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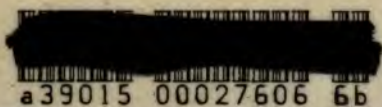
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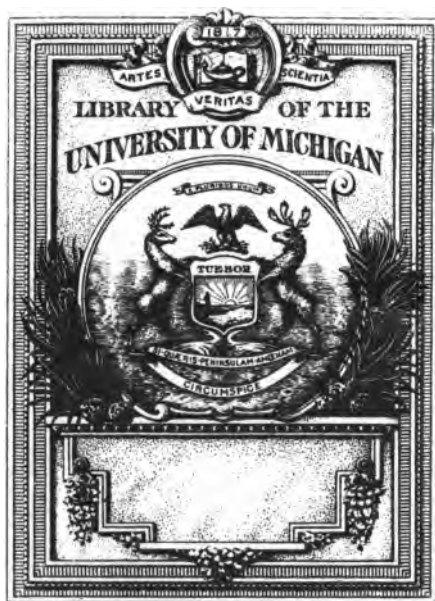
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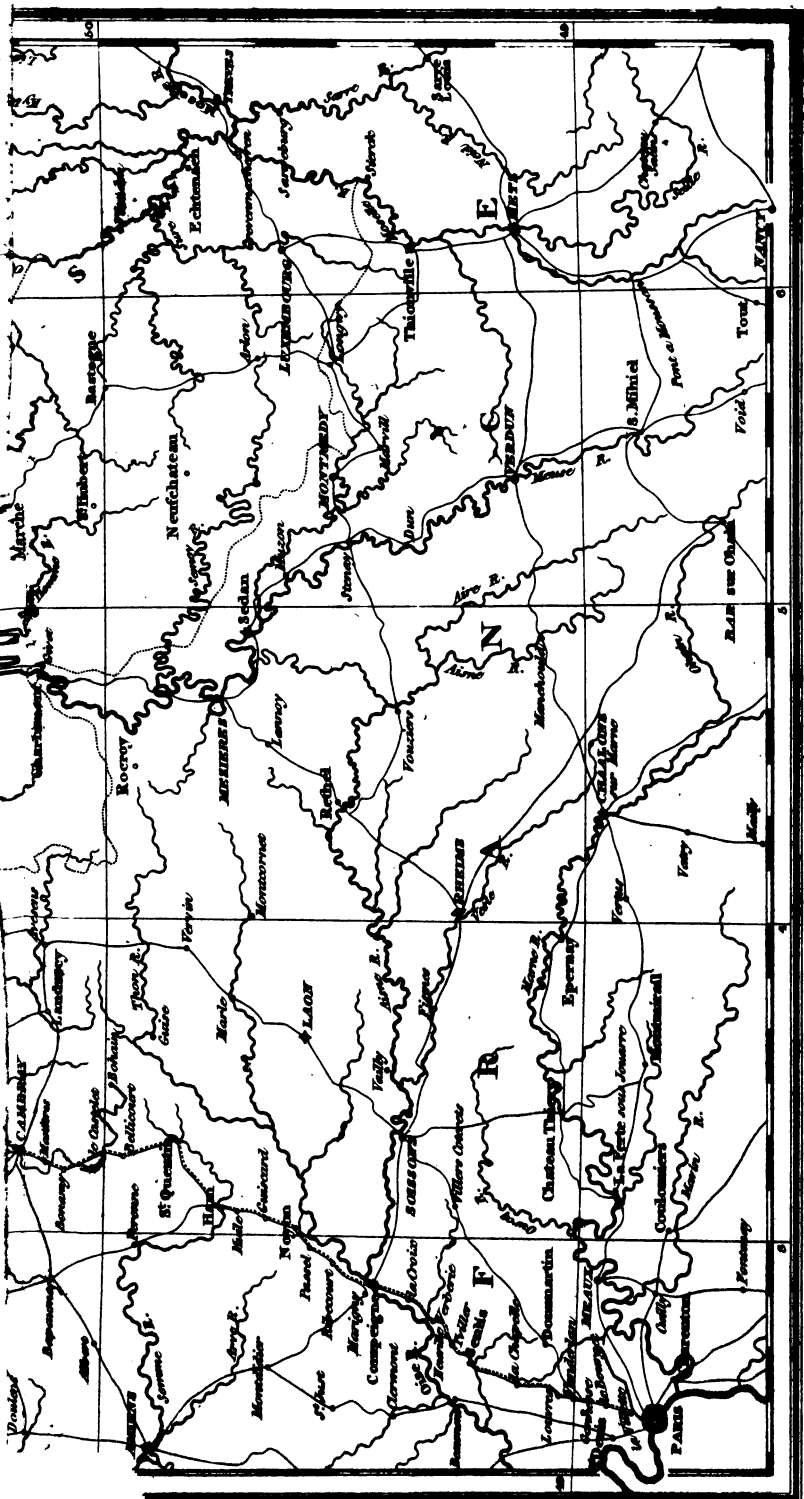
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A
TOUR
THROUGH
BELGIUM, HOLLAND,
ALONG
THE RHINE,
AND THROUGH
THE NORTH OF FRANCE,
IN THE SUMMER OF 1816.

IN WHICH IS GIVEN AN ACCOUNT
OF THE CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL POLITY, AND
OF THE SYSTEM OF EDUCATION
OF THE

Kingdom of the Netherlands;

WITH REMARKS ON
THE FINE ARTS, COMMERCE, AND MANUFACTURES.

By JAMES MITCHELL, M.A.

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A
TOUR
THROUGH
BELGIUM, &c.

LETTER I.

MY DEAR SIR,

BEFORE setting out for the continent, it was settled between us, that I should take notes of whatever I should see interesting or new. As the route proposed was one not generally taken by our countrymen, we flattered ourselves, that the journey might afford information and amusement. I am now returned, and at leisure to decipher and write out my notes at full length. They shall be sent you regularly as they are finished, for your perusal.

When I left Ramsgate, there were several gentlemen obliged to remain till next evening: for having paid in London for

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places all the way to Brussels, they had to wait for a packet in connection with the advertising company in London. This may prove a useful caution to travellers by sea or by land. The gale was brisk, and the North Foreland light, which shone like a star behind us, gradually receded: we enjoyed the breeze, until the lateness of the hour and the motion of the ship sent us below. At ten next morning nobody knew where we were. We therefore stood to the east, and the first land seen was conjectured to be the tower of West Cappel in Walcheren, which rose high from the sea. Our wise navigators having observed the sun's altitude at twelve o'clock, steered southerly, and at seven in the evening regaled us with the sight of the towers and white cliffs of Dunkirk, thirty miles south of Ostend. I acquired faith by this voyage, to believe more than formerly in the classic wanderings of Ulysses and Æneas. We were not uneasy; as the company on board was cheerful and well-informed, we enjoyed each other's conversation; and even felt pleasure in the variety of an occasional peal of thunder; nor did we disdain to re-

ceive amusement from the fluttering about the ship of a poor butterfly, which the gale had carried many leagues to sea.

We moved along the shore, and at one the light on the end of the long pier of Ostend seemed close at hand. Other two lights farther off, close by the town, at once announced to us, that the tide was sufficient to admit us, and directed our way. We passed the light-house and battery, and proceeded up the river, which forms the harbour, and soon after our vessel grounded on the sands, behind the other pier close by the town. The tide rapidly ebbed, and as the vessel was falling uncomfortably on her side, soon after four o'clock we left her, clambered over several vessels, and at length set our feet on the territories of His Majesty the King of the Netherlands.

We immediately had an opportunity of remarking the great acquisitions in modern languages, possessed by the natives of this town. A humble pilot was walking on the pier in his great coat, and we addressed him in French, inquiring at what hour the custom-house opened, that we might have our luggage examined. He informed us

in the same language, and inquired about our voyage. In a few minutes afterwards, he spoke to us in good English: for from much intercourse with English seamen he had also acquired that language. He pronounced the English tolerably well. Two other boatmen coming, with whom he seemed to have some misunderstanding, he presently shewed, that however he might in calm blood make use of foreign languages, his own native Flemish was the dialect in which he expressed the strong emotions of his heart. On casting our eyes around, we immediately saw by the signs on the houses, that our language was known, and the intercourse of our countrymen courted. On a little public-house next the shipping, the Flemish motto, "Well kom Binnen laft vallen ù anker," though not very difficult to understand, had the English translation, as an invitation to our mariners, "Welcome within, let fall your anchor." As we walked up into the town, we perceived that the same attention to convey information to our countrymen was very prevalent in Ostend. In fact, it would be difficult to say, which of the three languages was

most in use. Many houses had signs in two languages, and some in three. Few posting bills but had a translation in a parallel column, of equal authority with the original. The names of the streets put up at the corners in French, announced the ascendancy of that tongue. We afterwards found that in every town in the country, every possible means had been taken to render French the prevalent speech. It is affected by all the higher ranks as their native language. Even the present Government, either from choice, but more likely from necessity, publishes its edicts in the language of its chief enemy, and the very official gazette of the kingdom of the Netherlands has one column in Dutch, and the parallel column in French. The King's Ministers at the Hague, having made a speech to the States in Dutch, repeat it in French.

It was five o'clock on Monday morning when we walked up into the town. It was an early hour for London, but not so at Ostend. The Groot Kerk, or great Church, was already open; we entered it, and noticed forty or fifty people already on

their knees at their devotions. We met in the streets many gentlemen and ladies, as well as the people in the humbler walks of life, who were proceeding to church. It was the time of the Kermess, or great annual fair at Ostend, and on the preceding Sunday afternoon, after the devotions of the day, the archers had shot with their cross-bows for the prize, and the common people had looked on. In the evening, the song and the dance had concluded the business of the day; but with hearts conscious of having in this committed no impropriety, and with warm feelings of devotion, they were now proceeding, as usual, to intreat forgiveness of their sins, and the blessing of their Creator. When we returned after breakfast, about eight, we found the church full of people on their knees, and the priests engaged in the service. How different from a morning in England! yet such is the case every morning at Ostend, and so it is in every town in Belgium.

There were some circumstances connected with the worship, which I am well aware, your Protestant feelings would not have allowed you to look on with satisfaction.

Many of what were intended to be ornaments of the church, you would have been for removing as ridiculous and absurd. I question if your politeness would have induced you to show more respect for the finely dressed Madonna, with the infant Jesus in her arms, who is seen standing at one of the windows, and before whom a bright lamp at night at once does her honor, and directs the sincere well-meaning Catholic where to express his respect for her as the queen of heaven, and his adoration as the mother of his Redeemer. Perhaps you would also have questioned the utility of the group of full sized figures on the outside of the church, of our Saviour on the cross, of his mother, and the beloved Apostle John standing by, and the heap of skulls piled up beside them, to remind the passer-by of the approach of death, and the way to eternal life. But enough for the present of this. I respect the devotion of the Catholic, and wish that a something of it, unmixed with any baser feeling, could be brought over to our own shores.

Accompanied by a fellow passenger, a merchant of Amsterdam, with whose

society I had been much gratified during the voyage, I proceeded to the Hotel de la Cour Imperiale, which is kept, as I understood, by a relation of Marshal Davoust, in the Rue de la Chapelle. We had a comfortable and substantial breakfast, and went to take a walk through the town. The streets are tolerably straight, and the intercourse of the inhabitants with England has taught them the advantages of a footpath at the side. The number and size of the windows, at once inform the eye, that no window-tax here *laid on in proportion to the number of windows or the extent of surface*, has induced the people to deface the beauty of architecture, or abridge themselves of the comfort of the light and air of heaven. In this respect at least, we might learn something from them, although in most respects, as I shall take the opportunity by and by to inform you, our own financial system, severe as it is, is in general decidedly better than theirs. We went upon the lofty ramparts, on which the grass in most places was as high as the knee. We looked down upon the broad and vast ditch full of water, and on the out-works beyond it. This place

now so quiet, where not even a single cannon is to be seen, — this little town of only ten thousand inhabitants, where seventy men are deemed a sufficient garrison, was once the spot where the great contest for the liberty of the Low Countries was maintained, and the power of the Spanish tyrants was wasted away. Beneath these walls, in the famous three years siege from 1601 to 1604 in reducing this little town, 100,000 of the best troops of Spain fell a sacrifice by the brave resistance of the defenders. At eight o'clock we returned to the harbour, a vast stream of water which had been kept up by the sluices till the tide retired, was now running down, and clearing off the sand; we got our baggage on shore, and a douanier in a green uniform, with a sword by his side, examined it, with as much forbearance as could possibly be consistent with any fidelity to his trust. We of course expressed our satisfaction by a small *douceur*. Our passports, which we had given up at landing, were restored to us, and we went back to the hotel to dress, and to set out for Bruges.

There are two ways of proceeding forward, either by the canal or by the road. A barge sets off in summer at five in the morning, and arrives in time at Bruges to allow the passengers to go forward by the barge for Ghent. Another barge goes at three in the afternoon. We had seen enough of Ostend, and being unwilling to lose precious time, engaged a cabriolet to carry us on immediately. This vehicle would not be much admired in England, but it is quite in style in the Netherlands. The distance by the road is eighteen miles, for which we paid, beside a compliment to the driver, a Napoleon or twenty francs, worth sixteen shillings and eight-pence. You see travelling is not so much cheaper than in England, as many people are ready to tell us. My friend afterwards paid for a cabriolet to Ghent, a distance of thirty miles, thirty-eight francs, or 1*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.* From these sums, however, the barriers or tolls were to be paid, and these in Belgium are very high. We quickly left behind us the marshy land around Ostend. The road is all the way paved with stones like the streets of London. It is the same in most

roads in the Netherlands and in France. The stones for the road to Ostend are brought by the canals from the neighbourhood of Mons, a distance of about one hundred miles. This occasions the barriers to be high. During the time of the French government, there were no barriers to be paid, as the roads were kept up entirely by government, and that is the case now in France. I believe a particular tax was on this account imposed on all persons who kept horses and vehicles for hire. The prices for horses and all vehicles were also fixed by an ordinance of government, as they are now in France, so that by consulting the post book published by authority, you might know exactly what you had to pay in any part of the country. That regulation, so convenient for travellers, is now done away in Belgium, and the postmasters, notwithstanding they have now the barriers to pay, express their satisfaction, as they more than reimburse themselves by the sums which they demand. They have another more justifiable cause of satisfaction, arising from the consideration that their vehicles are no longer put

in requisition at the pleasure of the Imperial officers, and compelled to go where they please. Our driver complained much of being kept out in 1814 for ten days together by two officers, who did not give him or his master so much as a single franc.

About three miles from Ostend, we came up with six coaches filled with gentlemen returning from the Kermess or great annual fair. From the first coach were displayed two flags, and the gentlemen were going on, with expressions of joy, corresponding with the occasion. They respectfully bowed to us as we passed, and of course we returned the compliment. The country on each side of the road as we advanced forward was level like a fish pond, and was highly cultivated, and fertile as the garden of Eden. On each side of the road betwixt the pavement and the ditch, was a fine row of trees, whose beauty delighted the eye, and afforded shelter from the sun. The cabriolet, though inelegant to the eye, is a sufficiently comfortable conveyance; the horses though of different colours and yoked by ropes, went rapidly forwards; the driver on a little seat immediately before us was a

useful ciceroni, and we went forward delighted, and arrived in high spirits at the ancient and formerly great, renowned, and opulent city of Bruges. No passport was demanded at the gate, and we drove without interruption into the yard of the hotel of the Fleur de Bled. But let this be enough for one letter. If you are pleased with its contents, and willing to learn farther of the observations of your humble friend, you shall not have long to wait.

I am,

My dear Sir,

&c. &c.

LETTER II.

MY DEAR SIR,

To you, who are so well acquainted with the history of the Netherlands, it would be impertinent in me, to enter into a detail of the ancient greatness of Bruges. Three hundred years have passed away, and witnessed its fall from the highest pinnacle of commercial greatness to its present state. It can no longer boast of being the emporium of the trade of all nations, and of having consuls from every kingdom of Europe, to protect and regulate the trade of their respective fellow-subjects. It was in those days the entrepôt of the Hanse towns of the North, and the trading republics of Italy.

“ But more unsteady than the southern gale
Soon commerce turn'd on other shores her sail.”

The East India trade no longer comes through the Red Sea, by Alexandria to Genoa and Venice, and the cities of Lon-

don and Amsterdam have gained the trade of the wood, the tallow, the hemp, the tar, and the iron of Scandinavia.

Such as it is, Bruges is still a great and respectable city. Its public buildings and its churches retain their ancient magnificence. Thirty-three thousand people, dwell within its walls; and the numerous noblesse and opulent merchants retired from trade, who are domiciliated in it, impart an elegance and a dignity to the manners of the people. The streets, though narrow, are clean, and the houses are lofty and spacious.

At the table d'hote at the Fleur de Bled, four-and-twenty well dressed gentlemen sat down to dinner. The hour was one o'clock. Three field officers of the Dutch garrison lying in town, were of the number. These gentlemen are frequently to be met with, at a table d'hote, in travelling through the country. Many natives of the town attend, both for the sake of society, and for the purpose of obtaining a sumptuous dinner, at an easier expense than they could at their own houses. They have reason for so doing, and as you are desirous to know

the style and expense of living, you will not reckon it beneath your dignity to learn the particulars. On the table, we had soup, green peas, beans, potatoes, carrots and onions ; fowls, roast lamb, veal, fish of different sorts ; sweetmeats, cherries and strawberries. Of every thing there was an abundance, and the price was two francs or twenty pence, and the bottle of ordinary Bourdeaux wine, which was very good, was two francs and a half, or twenty five pence. Without lowering your rank as a gentleman, you might call for half a bottle only if you pleased. At supper at nine o'clock, were nearly the same things, and the price was one franc sixty centimes, or sixteen pence. To those who engage by the month it is less. It is quite unnecessary for me, after giving these particulars, to comment on the difference of living at Bruges, and in England.

There was one circumstance which particularly struck my attention, and which whatever may be thought of it by the careless and volatile, I doubt not you will agree with me in considering of more importance than any thing I have yet related.

At this respectable hotel, where four-and-twenty sat down to dinner, there was not a single newspaper, and yet nobody seemed at all to notice the circumstance except myself and another Englishman present. We inquired for a newspaper, and were told there was none in the house. Is this want of curiosity, this abstinence from all political inquiry, and this seeming entire acquiescence in the wisdom of their Government, an amiable trait in their character, and such a trait as their rulers themselves ought to wish for? You will readily answer for yourself, and I shall therefore not tell you what I should think of your friendship, if you were equally void of all curiosity of what I was doing, and what was likely to become of me. The anxiety of an Englishman to know the fate of the fleets and armies of his country, and the measures of his Government, and that warm interest which every man takes in the national honor and prosperity, are the grand principle which animates every heart, and nerves every arm, to support his country's cause, at home and throughout the world. The poor Flemings know nothing of this; their

politics do not extend beyond the boundary of their own town. Their Government is to them not a committee of their own countrymen, acting on their account, but are looked upon as task-masters, who impose a burden, which, however irksome, they are compelled to bear. Their main object, therefore, is to have that burden as light as possible, and their rulers know well it is in vain to look to them, for an energetic and enthusiastic support in the hour of peril, in carrying on the measures which they see to be necessary. For these two hundred years without an independent Government of their own, passing from the hands of one master to another, their country having been the seat of every great war carried on in Europe, they have acquired an apathy to every public event, and an indifference to every Government, excepting as they feel its burden to be lighter or heavier on their shoulders. It is to be hoped that *now*, when they have got a Government of their own, and are under the mild paternal sway of the House of Orange, that a national and patriotic feeling will soon animate their bosoms, and

raise them to a nobler rank in the scale of nations. Such feelings, however, are the work of time, and the ignorance which I often found respecting political events, the seat of the parliament, and what it had done and was doing, amongst persons of really liberal education, fully demonstrated that amongst the greater part as yet little progress had been made.

But it is time to leave politics, and return to the town of Bruges. As men must every where talk about something, and have something in which they feel an interest, I will tell you what was the great event of the day at Bruges, at the time I lodged at the Fleur de Bled. Outside of every town in the Netherlands, and in many parts of France, is a tall pole like the mast of a ship, which, by means of a joint may be let down to the ground. On this are fixed at the top what are called birds, and which to the eye seem of the size of larks, and the pole is again elevated. On Sundays after church service, and on holidays, it is the great amusement of the gentlemen of the town to assemble and shoot with arrows from cross-bows at these birds. In some towns

every Sunday, but in others only now and then, perhaps, in a quarter of a year, they shoot for prizes. They had done so on the Sunday before we came, and on our arrival at the Fleur de Bled, six gentlemen were there, who had the chief prize that had been gained, which they politely came forward and shewed us. It was six silver forks and six silver table spoons, which had cost 100 guilders, or about 9*l*. They were fastened on a board, and interwoven with laurels. To celebrate the event, there had been a procession with music, and ropes were hung across the streets, decorated with branches and flowers. An entertainment had been given on the occasion, and the evening concluded with a ball. As such an occasion was deemed of great importance at Bruges, a fete was given on the Monday evening likewise.

Many of our countrymen are constantly to be seen at Bruges, and English is very generally studied and spoken. Very many signs are in that language. There is constantly a stream of English pressing forward, and a current, rather feebler, returning. The number of English families

settled is from forty to fifty. It is a cheaper place to live in than either Ghent or Brussels. Certainly rent is a mere nothing. A good house with garden, coach-house, and stables, all large and commodious, soon after the peace, was taken by an English colonel for 25*l.* per annum. Other things were far from being cheap in proportion, and the main secret of the economy of living, both here and in France, is this, that a family may here, where they are unknown, lower their style of living without hurting their feelings. This I have heard many acknowledge. Bread, I was informed by an English lady who was settled in the town, was about the same price as in England; fish nearly the same; butter a good deal cheaper; meat cheaper than in London, but not much below that of an English country town; vegetables of every sort, and fruit were very cheap indeed. The lady gave her man servant 10*l.* per annum and his clothes. She gave her maid servants about 4*l.* a year. She complained much of their great awkwardness, and the difficulty of getting them to do things in the English style.

As I am now entering into minute details, I cannot have a better occasion than the present, of giving you an account of the price of labour in the town. The information I received from natives, to whom I had been introduced by our countrymen settled there. A bricklayer's labourer, to begin at the lowest scale, earns twelve pence a day; the bricklayer himself receives two francs and two pence, or twenty-two pence. In winter, of course they are unemployed. A labourer in the fields, has about ten pence a day and his victuals, which are coarse and cheap enough. Most trades work by piece-work, and some expert tailors may earn six francs or five shillings, but many not above two francs and a half, or twenty-five pence, and, as in London, they are often unemployed. Painters get from fourteen pence a day to four francs, according to their skill. A shoemaker earns about twenty-four pence, and boys learning the trade about seven pence. A cabinet-maker gets from one to three francs, according to his skill. The usual hours of working in summer, are to commence at five in the morning, and leave

off at twelve. They return at one and work till seven. In cotton manufactories the hours are still closer. The above statement I shewed to several persons, who assured me it was correct, and if that be the case, after making every allowance for the difference of the value of money at Bruges and in London, I conceive there is no reason to be afraid that our journeymen tradesmen and manufacturers, if they can get employed at all at home, will be induced to emigrate to Flanders. But let us give over these details, and inquire for something else.

The great source of enjoyment to strangers here, and in the other towns, is to go round to view the splendid and noble churches, their costly ornaments and their statues, monuments, and pictures. They are open from five in the morning till twelve, and some of them after six in the evening. The first morning I was at Bruges, shaking off the slothful habits of London, and adopting the manners of the country, I went out before five, and one of those boys, who are constantly in the streets around the doors of the hotels, imme-

diately asked me in English, if he should shew me the way. I went to the great church of St. Sauveur, and found it not opened, but four peasants on the outside were on their knees before a large image of our Saviour on the cross, elevated on a large pole, and with their prayer books in their hands, were performing their morning devotions. They seemed much in earnest, and I wished them heartily the blessings they implored. I went back to the great tower of the town, and ascended it to view the country round. The cylinder, which on the principle of the barrel organ sets in motion the bells of the carillons or chimes is of an immense size, and weighs, I was told, 19,966lbs. Tunes are played every quarter of an hour. On returning to St. Sauveur's church I found it nearly full of people. There are no pews, as in most Protestant churches, and the feeling impressed on entering is, that it is truly a house of prayer. The old and the young, the rich and the poor on their knees, or leaning on chairs, with their eyes directed towards the different altars, in silence, either from memory or from their prayer

books, were offering up their devotions. The same scene I found at the other churches also; and the numerous candles burning before the altars, and in various other parts of the church, indicated the liberality with which the worship was supported, and an anxiety to contribute every thing to add to its splendour and effect. To dismiss this subject, once for all I shall observe, that in the course of my journey, I found on every day of the week the same religious observances at Ghent, at Brussels, at Antwerp, at Cologne, at Aix-la-Chapelle, at Maastricht, at Louvaine, and at Mons. In the little country villages I found less splendour, but an equally crowded and attentive assembly.

At Bruges I had great pleasure in viewing the noble pictures with which their churches are adorned. I lay no claim to the character of a connoisseur, but the impression they made on my mind often induced me to go back to see them. The fine pictures of Rubens are particularly worthy of notice, and he must have a cold heart indeed, who would not sympathize in the warm glow of pleasure, with which the natives point out

those which have been restored to them from Paris. The natives still retain the taste of their ancestors for painting, and at the Academy of Fine Arts, supported at the expense of the town, several hundred pupils attend the masters in the different branches of art.

Bruges is still far from being totally insignificant, as a commercial and manufacturing town. I saw many large ships in the bason, and one in particular stated to be of eight hundred tons, which had been drawn by eight horses by the canal from Ostend. A great deal of lace is made, and at every door almost, as you walk round the town, you see women employed in this manufacture. I believe I have now pretty nearly exhausted the notes I took at Bruges, and very probably your patience also, in listening to them, and shall therefore conclude, with assurances that

I am,

My dear Sir,

&c. &c.

P. S. I wish not to be misunderstood, as meaning to assert that newspapers are not

to be met with at Bruges. A scrap of printed paper called there a newspaper, comes out three times a week in French, and another in Flemish. The circulation is very limited. A stranger may see a newspaper at most of the coffee-houses, but the information is so meagre, it only irritates an Englishman. In many towns are private societies, where the foreign papers may be seen by the members, and where for their amusement is usually a billiard table, &c.

LETTER III.

MY DEAR SIR,

WHEN it shall be your fate to make a journey on the continent, I sincerely wish you may enjoy the same pleasure as is generally experienced, in going by the barge from Bruges to Ghent. For pleasure and cheapness together it is unrivalled. We set out a little after nine. The barge we found to be a vessel of one hundred and fifty tons, drawn by four horses, one pair drawing by one rope, and the other by another, so that whatever accidents might occur the barge was kept moving. The vessel at present on the canal was built for the Emperor Napoleon at Ostend, and he travelled in it with his marshals from that town to Ghent, and then made a present of it to the two towns. Over the stern a large canopy is erected, to afford a shelter from the sun and the rain. The number of passengers was about sixty. The

country on each side of the canal is beautiful and most richly cultivated, and the banks are adorned with aspin poplars, some elm trees, a few oak trees of diminutive size, and a great many beech trees tall and slender. After a few miles, the banks rising high on each side intercept the view, until you approach within a few miles of Ghent. The canal may be from thirty to forty feet wide, and seven or eight in depth. To ascertain the trade upon it, I counted the barges we met, and found at the end of the journey, that they amounted to fifteen, some of which were laden with coals, some with lime, some with firewood, and the rest with merchandize. As the barge proceeds along, the swell of the water it occasions draws the broad leaves of the white water lilies underneath its surface, and when it retires they again emerge. The middle part of the barge is reserved as a kitchen for preparing a dinner, and such a one is brought on the table betwixt twelve and one, as a city alderman might justly admire. On the day I went passenger, it consisted of the same articles as I mentioned at the hotel at Bruges, with

the agreeable addition of beef steaks and salmon. All the Englishmen present were unanimous in their approbation of their culinary skill. The whole expense for the passage by the barge, and for the dinner, was only five francs, and including a glass of brandy, and half a bottle of Bourdeaux wine, it was only six francs and a half, or five shillings and five pence. At the second table to which the dishes from the first were removed, the charge was only three francs or two shillings and six-pence. After dinner, the waiter went round with an iron box, of which the keys are kept by the public officers, to collect what the passengers chose to give. One third is for himself, and the rest for the poor. I might have mentioned, that boys also, as you enter the barge, collect alms for the public funds of charity in a similar manner. The same thing is done at the doors of the churches. In this country the poor rates, that curse which is so severely felt in England, which strengthens the disease they are intended to remedy, are here totally unknown. It is therefore laudable and proper for the public officers, to avail themselves

of every honourable means of collecting the voluntary offerings of charity.

During this passage, I had the pleasure for the first time of being in company with nuns. We had two of them passengers on board, dressed as usual in black, with a large piece of white linen comfortably wrapt about the head, and which hung over the shoulders. Their dress was clean and neat, and such I have always seen it. Being ignorant of Flemish, I was not able to join in conversation with them. Their manners were agreeable, their behaviour was amiable, indicating resignation to that state into which they had entered, and of benevolence and good-will towards that world, from which they had retired.

A little occurrence took place whilst we were at dinner, which attracted the notice of all our countrymen present. There was at the table a Flemish lady of accomplished manners, whose elegant and expensive dress at once displayed her opulence and taste. Hearing a noise, some of us looked out at the cabin window, and saw from twenty to thirty boys quite naked, some standing on the bank, and some bathing at the side of

the canal. The Flemish lady held up her little daughter of twelve years of age to the window, that she also might see the sight, and kept her there, looking on both of them, until the barge had got past.

The distance by the canal reckoned nine hours, according to the mode of computation in the country, is about twenty-seven miles. The roads on the side of the canal being good, we arrived in eight hours, by about five in the evening. We entered our names at the police office, at the gate, and proceeded into the vast city of Ghent, or, as it is here and in France always denominated, GAND. The city of Ghent could formerly muster under its banners an army of fifty thousand men, and its ramparts, which surround it like a circle, and which are adorned with trees, are three leagues in extent. The Emperor Charles V. was a native of this city, as was also John of Gaunt, whose name occurs so often in English history. It is at present inhabited by fifty or sixty thousand people. A very great proportion of the Belgic nobility reside in it; and its Canals, Churches, Public Library, Academy of Fine Arts, College, Botanic Gar-

den, numerous public walks, and Maison de Force, are all objects of great magnitude and interest. In this town there are at present 'from forty to fifty English families. It is less lively than Brussels, and for families whose object for living abroad is economy, and but few indeed will settle abroad from any other motive, the town of Ghent is preferable. The houses, as in the other towns, are large and spacious, but are not such as a genteel English family would deem at all elegant or comfortable; and, unless they were contented with furnishing them after the manner of the country, the expense would be very high.

A numerous Dutch garrison of from three to four thousand soldiers is at present in the town, and for their use there are two Protestant churches. There are the same number of Protestant churches at Bruges. The Belgic soldiers, according to the usual policy of all governments, are sent out of the country, to garrison the towns in Holland.

At Ghent it is impossible for a poor stranger to lose his way. Boys in the streets are continually offering their ser-

vices, to conduct him to every place where he may feel an interest. Some of these lads speak English, and all of them French. A mercantile man, travelling on business, may have an elderly man, an excellent interpreter, for three francs, or half a crown, a day. Of these lads, who so readily shew the way to the churches and libraries, I may forewarn you, that they also most eagerly press their services, to conduct an Englishman to those places, where his morals and health are little likely to be improved. Nay, such are the temptations to which our countrymen are exposed, that cards of address in their own language are put into their hands, by persons who eloquently invite their company, and such were given me in the street in all the towns I stopped at in Belgium, in some towns in Holland, and afterwards at Paris. In towns where the streets are so much alike, the convenience of a guide to shew the way, and to find out the places you enquire for, is very great.

As usual I got up at five, and went soon after to see the churches. They are truly splendid, and the cathedral is noble indeed.

The marble floors and pillars, the richly adorned altars, the golden candlesticks, the monuments and pictures, are such, that he who has seen them once will press his friends to go with him, and he will often be induced to return and see them again.

So flat is the whole country of the Netherlands, that to obtain a view of a town you must ascend the tower of a church : It is a fatiguing exertion, but you may in many towns refresh yourself by viewing the bells and carillons by the way. From the leads on the top of the tower of the cathedral of Ghent, you look down on the vast city spread out like a map beneath you. It is at this moment clearly painted in my mind, and I fancy I am sitting there with my maps spread out, and my guide, the son of the clerk of the cathedral, beside me. Methinks I see the noble churches of the city, the great town-house, the wide canals, with their numerous boats, and the white fields of linen exposed to be bleached on the grounds, which, two hundred years ago, were the busy haunts of men. Looking beyond the ramparts, which the trees mark out to the eye, I trace the “ lazy

Scheldt," and its shipping on the way to Antwerp; I view the great canal to Bruges and the waters of the Lys. Afar off rising above the trees are the vast towers, which, my guide informs me, are those of the great churches of Dendermond, Courtray, Bruges, and Sas de Gand. The flat level country lies before me, with its trees and waving fields of corn; the scene, which is extensive like that of the ocean, gradually grows fainter to the view, and the vast towers alone bound the prospect in the horizon. Immediately below, the eye looks down on the seminary of the priests, which, as usual, is to be found near the bishop's cathedral. Of the two or three hundred young men, there studying the doctrines and discipline of the church, many may be seen in their black robes walking in the court.

The golden days of the church are passed away. The sacred functionaries no longer presume to claim as their own, the tenth of the produce of the land, and the way of salvation is shewn to the poor layman at a much cheaper rate. In the town of Ghent are seven parishes and seventy priests; of these twenty-eight are employed about the

cathedral. It seems a great many; but when you consider the continual services and masses every morning till twelve, and services in the evening, the baptisms, marriages, burials, confessions, sacraments, absolutions, visitations of the sick, and extreme unctions, the number of men to do the duty is no more than is required. You will perhaps tell me, that a great deal of all this might be left undone, and the people be none the worse. On that head I shall not enter into any dispute, and I think you will allow, that whilst such services are required, the situation of a priest is at least as fatiguing as in England. The emolument of the twenty-two canons of the cathedral is 1000 guilders per annum; of the chanteurs 500 guilders; the clerk of the cathedral, a layman, has 300 guilders. You may reckon about 11 guilders to the pound sterling. In the country towns the priest or *curé* of the parish has about 1200 francs, more or less according to the expense of living. You see by this the church is not over highly paid, and there is no temptation for an English clergyman, leaving out of the question, wife, children, and other

good Protestant comforts, that he should abandon his country living to seek an establishment in Flanders.

The days of Ecclesiastical terror and oppression are passed away. The annihilation of their wealth has diminished the influence of the clergy, and men of extensive family interest and power, have no longer a temptation to join their ranks. The higher orders in Belgium do not frequent the churches, with the same regularity as their inferiors, under the plausible excuse, that they perform their devotions in private at home. They themselves best know if they do so. The main body of the people are, without doubt, sincerely attached to their religion, and they treat their spiritual guides with great kindness and respect; but they will not allow an order of men intended for their comfort, to employ themselves to their disquiet. A man may be of the Catholic religion, or of the Protestant, and no one dares harm him; and should he also be of neither, and go to worship no where, I am sorry to say, he will find persons enough to keep him in countenance. It is no longer the fashion;

by a rigid observance of old customs, for good Catholics to deny themselves comforts. Eating a piece of good meat is but a very venial sin any day, and although at a *table d'hôte* of a Friday, a tender conscience may find enough to make a dinner of fish and vegetables, yet such a rare instance of abstinence I have never yet seen. It is the fashion on that day, even in France, to serve up more fish than on other days, but there is no want of other more substantial viands. The Ghent barge does not forfeit on that day the character of good dinners, which it acquires during the other six. I have seen a party of Italians of a Friday, acquit themselves as well as if they had been natives of England. They may no doubt have the same excuse with the great Erasmus. That celebrated restorer of learning, writing to the pope, who in a private letter to him, had reproached him with eating meat in Lent, replied, "I have a Catholic soul, but my stomach is altogether Lutheran*." So far as this extends, the Reformation will very likely

* See Anecdotes Medical and Chemical.

soon be universal. In the Netherlands, the military men may in some degree have effected this comfortable improvement. Every day is alike in the camp, and the soldier, who is often obliged to fast against his will, thinks he has a right to a good dinner when it is in his power.

Half the people of the Netherlands have been soldiers in the armies of France, and do not wish in peace to drop all at once the indulgences of war. In fact, the church itself, participating in the enlightened spirit of the age, has rendered her demands even in Lent so very moderate, that there is but little mortification in complying with them. In the cathedral church of Cambray, I read a long address by the bishop to the people, on the observation of Lent, which had been published last Spring; at the conclusion of which address were five articles to the following import.

1st, Eggs were permitted every day, except on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

2d, Meat was allowed on the Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, after the first Sunday, until Thursday in Passion week, exclusive.

3d, The soldiers in active service may eat meat in time of Lent, but are exhorted to abstain on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

There being no war last Spring, soldiers in active service must mean every soldier serving at all, and the little abstinence deemed beneficial for them, they are not *required*, but only *exhorted* to observe.

4th, Alms are required in support of the seminary of the priests.

5th, The confessors are required to remind the people of this duty.

After this we may fairly allow, that my lord the Bishop of Cambray is a reasonable and good natured man.

The services which individuals require of the clergy, may be obtained at a sufficiently easy rate. For confession, for absolution, and for the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, no fee whatever is taken. If an individual require a private mass to be said on his account, the charge is two francs. For the joyful occasion of the baptism of a child, the fee is what every one pleases to give; and even when the priest unites a loving pair in holy matrimony, he

leaves it to their own generosity to recompense him as they think fit.

The present Bishop of Ghent is a very troublesome character, and one who in other days might have been distinguished for the vices and crimes, which raised to eminence Thomas a Becket of Canterbury. The Emperor Napoleon, whatever other blots he had in his character, never allowed himself to be controuled by the church, and he had the Bishop of Ghent brought to Paris, and sent him to prison for two years, to learn Christian humility in salutary reflection. The present opposition which the Bishop makes to the King, shews he has not yet reaped the full benefit intended by the lesson. The other bishops and priests are of course inclined to support him, and dislike that article of the constitution, by which every native subject of the realm, whatever be his religion, is qualified to be admitted to any office of power and trust. You will no doubt join with me, in loudly condemning such ignorant oppression and bigoted illiberality. Stop a little, my dear sir; look around you a little in your own church, the good old orthodox Church of

England, and see if you do not find some bishops, and many parish priests, who in regard to their Catholic brethren are guilty of the same.

Of the numerous herds of drones, the monks, with which this country was formerly overrun, happily now none remain. Their lands have been all seized and sold, and their country monasteries are now the chateaux of private individuals. In the towns they are converted either into libraries, hospitals, or barracks. Few, I believe, are mad enough to regret their overthrow. The wise and philosophic Joseph II. of Austria began the necessary reformation, and the storms of the French revolution swept the whole away. The present governors, without the most distant risk of blame, enjoy the benefit of the actions of their predecessors.

The nunneries, in general, shared the same fate, and those at Ghent are now happily all that remain. Some nuns, on entering again into the world, before their charms were withered by age, listening to the voice of unerring nature, and overcoming the gloomy terrors of superstition,

have, in the holy state of matrimony, found happiness in discharging the pleasing duties of wives and mothers. Others, less fortunate, have hid their heads in obscurity; and at Bruges, and some other towns, there are houses in which a few voluntarily choose to live together, and by their little fortunes, aided by their relations and pious friends, support their cheerless existence. At Brussels, the nunneries are converted into hospitals, and nuns usefully devote themselves to real religion, in waiting on the sick. At Ghent, the principal nunnery remains in all its glory. It is indeed a splendid establishment, supported, as I understand, by the private fortunes of its inmates. Here withered charms and forbidding features may still hope for shelter from masculine scorn, and here the unhappy maiden whose hopes have been disappointed, may seek refuge from the infidelity of man, or weep over the untimely fate that carried to the grave the choice of her youth. Prompted by more than usual curiosity I went to view the buildings, and by the politeness of the fair inhabitants, for which I shall ever feel

grateful, had every thing shewn and explained that I could with propriety wish. As nunneries in the present age are not every day to be met with, and as from the improved taste of even the Belgic damsels this at Ghent obtains but few recruits, you will, perhaps, be pleased to know the particulars. You must not fancy to yourself one large house, but a collection of houses, inclosed within a brick wall, with a garden in the centre, and near it a handsome church. Soon after entering the gate, my attention was arrested by a little portico, or as it is called a chapel, built to shelter from the weather a statue of Jesus, with the crown on his head, the sceptre in his hand, but his arms bound with cords. Beautiful bouquets of flowers in flower-pots were set before him, and a place to light candles to his honor. Numerous figures of silver "*ex voto*," fixed near him, of arms, thighs, &c. attested the benefits which the votaries imagined they had received in answer to their prayers*. I asked

* These offerings "*ex voto*," are pretty common in all the Catholic towns which I visited. Silversmiths display them ready made at their windows.

my guide, a clever lad of thirteen, what it was? — "*C'est un Dieu, Monsieur.*" I asked him, "*Quel Dieu? Dieu le Père?*" — "*Non M. c'est Dieu le Fils.*" As we drew near, the boy respectfully took off his hat. On our return we saw an old woman on her knees, repeating her prayers before this chapel. We entered the church, it was highly adorned with marble, with beautiful altars, pictures, and the freshest and finest of flowers. There were innumerable chairs and cushions, and desks also for their prayer-books. One nun was in the church, on her knees, with a candle burning before an image, towards which, as a memorial to aid her devotions, she was directing her eyes. She courteously, with an amiable countenance, inclined her head to me as I passed. After seeing the church, I went to the principal building of the nunnery, and of two kind-looking nuns whom I met, I asked if it was permitted to enter and see it. They went and rang a bell, and two other nuns opening the door, it was agreed to receive me. In this house are forty-eight cells, for as many nuns. In the whole collection of buildings there are

several hundreds. The nuns whom I saw had the manners, and, notwithstanding their dress, the appearance of ladies. The impression on my mind was deep regret, that such amiable virtues as they appeared to possess, which might have blessed mankind, should here be buried in unsocial gloom. The cells are on each side of a passage, on the lower story, and this arrangement is observed above. The floors of the passages and cells are of the most beautiful brick. You can hardly imagine any thing so fine. Each cell was about ten feet square, and had a large window. Its furniture was a bed which turned up, a pretty large cupboard, a table and a stool. Many of the nuns were working lace. There is also a kitchen, in which two poor sisters act as cooks, and a public eating-room. In connection also with the building is a handsome little chapel for confession, in which candles were burning, and which was beautifully adorned with pictures and flowers. As there is no risk that these lines will ever meet their eyes, I hope I shall not be guilty of rudeness in stating, that most of those I saw seemed

nearly fifty years of age ; perhaps in another dress they might have looked younger. I left the place with feelings of respect for the fair ladies, and regret that family pride and avarice which dreaded an inferior marriage, or a mistaken system of opinions, should have shut them up in such a place. There are, however, different lights in which the same subject may be viewed, and in justice to the sincere devotees, the glowing lines of Pope to their praise, shall here have a place.

“ How happy is the blameless vestal's lot !
The world forgetting, by the world forgot :
Eternal sunshine of the spotless mind !
Each pray'r accepted, and each wish resign'd ;
Labour and rest, that equal periods keep ;
Obedient slumbers that can wake and weep,
Desires composed, affections ever even ;
Tears that delight, and sighs that waft to heaven.
Grace shines around her with serenest beams,
And whispering angels prompt her golden dreams ;
For her th' unfading rose of Eden blooms,
And wings of seraphs shed divine perfumes :
For her the spouse prepares the bridal ring,
For her white virgins hymeneals sing ;
To sounds of heav'nly harps she dies away,
And melts in visions of eternal day.”

ELOISA TO ABELARD. #

Leaving the nuns and all others who please to participate in the blessings of these golden dreams, of which I am afraid few are now capable, I beg to subscribe myself,

My dear Sir,

Your's, &c. &c.

LETTER IV.

MY DEAR SIR,

IT was a saying of the Emperor Charles V., that he could put all Paris into his *Gand*; making a pun on the word, which signifies in French a glove, and the city of that name. It was perhaps of equal extent with Paris in his time; and is still, I conceive, the most interesting city of Belgium. The principal citizens in the great towns are not, as with us, men occupied in commerce and manufactures. The towns are the perpetual residence of the nobility and landholders. There they build their favorite mansions; within the ramparts they concentrate their happiness, and seek to procure all that can add to their physical and intellectual enjoyments. Who would be so destitute of common prudence, as to build a palace in the country, and plant gardens, or lay out a park and pleasure grounds? Ever in constant succession, con-

tending armies are spreading desolation. Straggling parties of unlicensed plunderers would murder the inhabitants, and carry off the effects. Regular and authorised foraging parties would cut down the woods, and perhaps in their retreat, to cut off shelter from the enemy, would burn down the chateau. Hence the rich and opulent spend the year in towns. From this cause in Ghent we find the Academy of Fine Arts, the Botanic Garden, and the Public Library, beside minor institutions, which the inhabitants may feel a just pride in shewing to all the world, and which, to do them justice, they open with a liberality which may be equalled but cannot be surpassed.

The buildings of the Academy, which the mistaken opinions of former days had erected for another purpose, are large and commodious. In the winter season, several hundred pupils attend the instructions given by the masters in the different branches of art. A collection of pictures by the best Flemish masters delights the connoisseur, and cannot fail to give pleasure to any man of taste. You cannot but participate in the extraordinary feelings of triumph and de-

light, with which they shew the masterpieces of art, which the plunderers of the world have been compelled to restore. They also shew, with much satisfaction, some fine pictures which with patriotic care had, for sixteen years, been kept concealed from the grasp of the oppressor. I recollect one picture of Charles V. and Ferdinand, painted by Craier at eighty-five years of age. There is another of Philip IV. as Count of Flanders in 1668, taking the oath before the nobles, bishops, and deputies, in the grand square at Ghent. The figures in the piece are very many, and they are said all of them to be real portraits of the persons represented. But it is impossible to give an account of them all; and pictures can excite but a feeble interest unless seen. There is a collection of casts and models of the most celebrated statues.

It would have betrayed a truly blameable want of curiosity in a literary man, not to have gone to see the public library. When I entered it, I counted twelve gentlemen who were sitting at table reading, and making extracts. The building which had been a church of one of the suppressed

monasteries, is truly elegant and grand. In the album I observed the name and arms of the present king. A large proportion of the names had Anglois annexed, and I felt pleasure in adding mine to the number. Many of the books have been restored from Paris. Some of them had been but lately bound, and had the N's on the back. They will probably be allowed to remain, as a strong memorial of the plundering vandalism of the French, and of the tyrant's ambition and his fall. Many of the manuscripts are of surprising beauty, both for penmanship and ornaments, and had in their formation occupied many of the otherwise idle hours of the monks, and thereby abated the wearisomeness of the monastic life. Several are considered as great curiosities, and are preserved with great care. Some of the earliest labours of the press are also worthy of notice. One is an edition of the bible at Mayence of 1462, after the manner of manuscripts. There is also a beautiful copy of Tacitus, printed at Venice, before several parts of his works were discovered. To enter this library and derive the benefits it affords, it is not neces-

sary to have the recommendation of an hereditary trustee, or of a minister of state, or to overcome the struggle of ingenuous modesty, and to submit your literary merits to the judgment of a committee. Every facility is afforded, and when the valuable collection of books in our British Museum is laid open to perusal, with an equal liberality, our national character will not be injured by the change, nor will the ends for which the institution was founded be the less accomplished.

The attractions of the Botanic Garden frequently induced me to go thither. Independently of its merit as a fine collection of rare and valuable plants, it is beautifully laid out, and the fair ladies of Ghent may be seen enjoying its walks. I regret I do not possess sufficient knowledge to be able to appreciate its merits. Due honor is done to the great father of modern botanical science, Linnæus. A bust is erected in the garden under which is this inscription.

CHARLES DE LINNÉ'

LINNÆUS

NATURAM AMPECTITUR OMNEM,

IL VIT IL CONNUT TOUT

ET NOUS FIT TOUT CONNAITRE.

Honors equally distinguished are conferred on Rambert Dodoneé of Malines, who was physician to Maximilian II. and Rodolphus II., and afterwards was professor of medicine at Leyden. The inscription tells us, he wrote many books, discovered many plants, and that his works will be consulted as long as men shall study the useful science of botany. The same attention is also shewn to the memory of Charles D'Olmen, Baron de Pæderle, a botanist, who made voyages to discover new plants. He was member of the Agricultural and Botanical Societies of Paris, London, and Ghent. There is a pleasing method of preserving the memory of a youthful botanist, cut off in the prime of life and expectation. A beautiful tree, a pistacia lentiscus, is dedicated to the memory of Joseph Francis Van Haut, a distinguished pupil of the college of Ghent, who died at Paris, and at his death proved a benefactor to the public library, and the garden of plants.

At Ghent were several refugees from France, and amongst others General Vandamme. That town has seen great re-

verses of his fortune. In his youth he lived there as a barber's boy, and for that propensity of appropriating the property of others, which he and his brother marshals afterwards displayed on a much larger scale, he got into the hands of justice, and had the suitable corporal chastisement inflicted on him. He left Ghent, declaring, if ever he should come back, it should be at the head of an army. The wonderful course of events enabled him to do so, and on his return he repaid with interest, the favours he had received. He denies, as I understood, the cruelties he had been charged with having committed at Hamburg, and asserts he did no more than he was compelled to do by his instructions. He makes it his boast that he led off the only part of the army that retreated unbroken from Waterloo, and that afterwards became the army beyond the Loire. I do not wish at all to injure the man, but I sincerely hope the King of the Netherlands will be on his guard against all Frenchmen of every party. They all of them have an eye to his Belgic provinces, and wish to see them re-united to France.

French fashions and French manners already too much predominate, and too many of the natives are disposed to give that nation a preference to the Dutch. Half the young men in the country have borne arms under the Imperial Eagle, and sought reputation in the glory of France. Too much care cannot be taken to watch over Vandamme and his party, and every one else of the same country. A war will arise some time or other, unless a miraculous change take place amongst mankind, and every thing ought to be done to excite a strong patriotic Belgic feeling, to dissever the natives from their late fellow subjects. Hoping that this and every other good design will be attempted and succeed, I shall here conclude this letter. My next shall be entirely devoted to give an account of the education received by the different ranks in Belgium.

I am,

My dear Sir,

Yours, &c.

LETTER V.

MY DEAR SIR,

I INTEND, as I stated in my last, to devote this letter entirely to the subject of EDUCATION, which I doubt not you will allow to be one of the greatest importance in its effects to the happiness and prosperity of any people. It deserves, therefore, eminently to be made the subject of enquiry, by every rational and inquisitive traveller; and yet, as is very justly complained of by a popular geographer, Mr. Pinkerton, it is almost uniformly neglected. Many travellers, no doubt, pass the subject by, from an unwillingness to enter upon what they are conscious of not understanding in the detail. Still more are deterred from considering it not to be sufficiently amusing. It is indeed a matter too grave to be discussed "*Coram populo*," and you may therefore reserve this letter for your own private meditation.

In the provinces of Belgium, the blessings of knowledge are more generally diffused, than many on our side of the water are ready to suppose. There is not indeed, as in Scotland and Holland, a regular establishment of parochial schools ; but in almost every village there are private schools, in which are taught the common but most useful branches of reading, writing, and accounts. In the towns there are also many schools, and by far the greater part of the young people can now read and write. Among the old people there are many who cannot do this, and there are many parents, as is the case in England, who have no desire to put their children to school.

I know I am treading on delicate ground when I venture, in writing to a zealous churchman, to assert that the dissenters in England, whatever inconveniences they may have occasioned, have been of great benefit to the lower classes in diffusing the blessings of education. Almost the first step of a dissenting minister, after settling in a remote village, if he be not himself a schoolmaster, is to establish a Sunday-

school, as a powerful means of training up the rising generation to his opinions, and of attracting their parents also to his chapel. The rector or curate, assisted by the justice, in self-defence, establishes another, and the utmost exertions are made on both sides, to bring children to the school. Thus from the opposition of the two opinions, in districts where the people have been slumbering for ages in the night of ignorance, the light of knowledge is introduced, and a new generation arises superior to their fathers. The dissenters or Protestants in Belgium are but very few indeed, and no Sunday-schools are established. That is a great misfortune, and there are also no evening schools, in which the industrious part of the community may, after the labours of the day, obtain the means of instruction.

I am afraid the clergy in Belgium are not very anxious to forward education. They certainly do their endeavours to prevent the circulation of the Bible; but in the present day their spiritual arms are all they can employ, and these arms have already lost their efficacy, wherever a resolu-

tion exists to oppose them. Where curiosity prompts to read the Bible, the clergy have no means to prevent it.

Of day-schools and boarding-schools for instruction in the Latin and French languages, and other higher branches of education, there is a supply more than equal to the demand; independently of several noble colleges, of which I shall presently give an account.

There is a regulation in the Netherlands with regard to private individuals, who wish to adopt the profession of schoolmasters, which is of the utmost advantage to the community, and which I do not despair, the good sense of the English government will one day introduce among ourselves. Before a man can obtain his patent or licence from government to be a schoolmaster, without which he dares not commence, he must appear before a commission, of which there are one or two in every province, and he must be examined, and found qualified for those branches which he professes to teach. In Holland, the gradations of qualifications are four, and a man who has only passed for the

lowest, must not presume to attempt the branches which require he should pass for the second, third, or fourth. There is, however, no bar put to his honorable advancement; for should he conceive from his studies and application, and instructions he may have received, that he has made himself master of the higher branches, he is at full liberty to apply for an examination, and if found competent, he has full permission to profess and teach accordingly: and he has this satisfaction, that the decision of the commission establishes his character that he is no impostor. This regulation is of no injury whatever to the really deserving teacher; on the contrary, it is of great benefit to him, as it cuts off the competition of numerous ignorant impostors.

Any man who is at all acquainted with the profession, as it is carried on in England, is well aware, that there is no one profession besides, in which half the quackery, half the deception, half the gross imposition is practised on the ignorant public. Men who know nothing whatever of what they undertake, journeymen

tradesmen, &c. make the most pompous professions, but few indeed are able to discriminate; the well-meaning parents lose their money, the unhappy children their precious time, and the meritorious teacher the fair and honest emoluments of his profession. In the boarding-schools also, the same evil prevails to an equal extent. Every branch of learning and science, every useful literary and commercial acquirement, is professed by men who have never been taught themselves. The parent who reads the cards, prospectus, and advertisements, finds every thing promised, and has no other mode of selecting his school, than by the sum which is demanded, or by the judgment of a neighbour, who knows perhaps as little as himself. Thus it is, that whilst in England more money is laid out in education than in any other country, there is no region under heaven in which that money is so often worse than thrown away.

The regulation I have informed you of as existing in the whole kingdom of the Netherlands, in respect to school-masters, is precisely similar to that which exists

amongst ourselves, with respect to physicians, surgeons, and apothecaries. There is no scarcity of them we all know; and they know it too, perhaps, more painfully than we do. No man may attempt to cure a wound, or administer medicine for a fever, until by an examination, he has been found to possess sufficient knowledge for the undertaking. The reason of this is, the public are often unable to judge at all if he be qualified. The same reason holds good, every way as much in regard to a very numerous part of the public and the schoolmasters. As Parliament last session thought fit to extend to apothecaries the regulation which formerly only applied to physicians and surgeons, if they should also see fit to adopt a similar plan for securing a better education, they would at once do the public and the meritorious part of the profession an incalculable service.

But leaving all introductory and higher schools, let us advance to the more splendid institutions of colleges; for as to universities at present in Belgium, there are none, though it is in contemplation very soon to have that of Louvaine re-esta-

blished, with perhaps the addition of two others.

The college of Ghent has maintained a high reputation as a seat of learning, and from a particular account of it, you will form your judgment of the means of education enjoyed by the higher ranks throughout the Netherlands.

The functionaries of the college are a regent, two sub-regents, and six professors, being for Latin and Greek, Poetry, and Rhetoric. There are also five other professors or masters, who give instruction in French, English, German, Drawing, and the Mathematics.

The regent has the direction and administration of the college committed to his care, and has the charge of all the furniture. He appoints the servants, and dismisses them; he keeps an account of the receipts and expenditure of the college, of which he makes a monthly return to the mayor of the city. He also makes a monthly report to the mayor, of the state of the college, and transmits to the parents of the pupils a monthly bulletin of their progress and conduct. His appointments

are the highest in the college, and are board, lodging, and 3000 francs per annum.

The two Sub-Regents have the superintendence of the pupils during the time they are not engaged with the professors; they see that they go regularly to their classes, — they have the charge of the dormitories, — they go out with them when they walk into the country, — and they make to the regent a weekly report of the conduct and morals of the pupils. The sub-regents have also to perform alternately the duties of chaplain; to do which they must have the authority of the bishop. They must preside at the prayers morning and evening; celebrate mass at the appointed hour; and on Saturdays in the afternoon, and on Sundays and holidays in the morning, they are to give instructions on religion and morality.

Their appointments are board, lodging, and 2000 francs per annum each.

The six teaching Professors have not their minds distracted by any other occupations, from the business of their classes. They must be natives of the country, and

possess a thorough knowledge of the French and Flemish languages, in which they communicate their instructions. They wear a black gown and a square cap, when engaged in their office. Every Saturday they make a return to the regent, of the conduct and progress of their pupils. The appointments are board, lodging, and 2000 francs per annum; but the professors of the two higher classes have 2400 francs per annum.

The following list of the books made use of in the six classes, the little form, the great form, the class of grammar, of syntax, of poetry, and of rhetoric, will convey a better idea of the lessons given, than any thing I can communicate:—

La Petite Figure.

1. Les Rudimens de la Langue Latine, par Tricot.
2. La Figure de Tricot.
3. Dictionarium Belgico-Latinum, per Pomey.
4. Dictionnaire Universel Français-Latin, par Lallemand.

5. Catechisme de Malines, Français-Flamand.

6. Figures des Lettres Grecques.

7. Formation des Chiffres, Denomination, Numération.

Grande Figure.

1. Rudimens de la Langue Latine, par Tricot.

2. Epitome Historiæ Sacræ, per Lhomond.

3. Siret, Epitome Historiæ Græcæ.

4. Appendix de Diis, et Heroibus Poeticis, per Jouveney.

5. De Viris Illustribus Urbis Romæ, per Lhomond.

6. Mœurs des Israelites, par Fleury.

7. Declinaisons et Conjugaisons Grecques.

8. Dictionarium Latino-Græcum, auctore Schrevelio.

9. Principes généraux tirés des Elémens de la Langue Grecque, par Le Roi.

10. Les Quatre Operations de l'Arithmétique, Regle de Trois, et Fractions.

11. Grondregelen der cyfferkonst, door J. J. Rombouts.

12. *Traité Élémentaire d'Arithmétique*,
par La Croix.

13. *Atlas der jeugd. — Atlas des En-
fans.*

Grammaire.

1. *Grammaire Latine de l'Académie de
Bruxelles.*

2. *Abrégé de la Grammaire Grecque de
Port Royal.*

3. Des Roches, *Epitome Historiæ Bel-
gicæ*, libri vii. 2 vol.

4. Cornelius Nepos *de Vitis excellentium
Imperatorum.*

5. *Phædri selectæ Fabulæ.*

6. *Canisii parvus Catechismus Catholi-
corum.*

7. *Fables d'Esopé, Grec et Français.*

8. *Abrégé de la Géographie de Crozat,
avec un Traité de la Sphere.*

9. *Discours sur l'Histoire Universelle,
par Bossuet*, 2 vol.

10. *Thèmes Grecs et Latins.*

11. *Differentes Règles d'Arithmétique et
de Société, Algèbre, Equations du premier
Degré.*

Syntaxe.

1. Selectæ Ciceronis et Plinii Epistolæ.
2. Quintus Curtius de Rebus Gestis Alexandri Magni.
3. C. Julii Cæsaris Commentarii de Bello Gallico.
4. Discours sur l'Histoire Universelle de Bossuet, 2 vol. et continuation.
5. Selectæ e Profanis Scriptoribus Historiæ.
6. Syntaxis Linguae Latinæ in usum collegii regii Bruxellensis.
7. Plutarchi Vitæ Virorum illustrium græcè Scriptæ.
8. Continuation de la Sphere et Geographie.
9. Caii Sallustii Crispi Opera.
10. Historiæ Romanæ Res memorabiles.
11. Premiers Elemens des Mathematiques, continuation de l'Algebre, Elemens de Geometrie, Theorie des Triangles et des Cercles.
12. Continuation de Canisius.
13. Continuation de l'Histoire Belgique de Des Roches.

Poesie. *

1. Prosodiæ Latinæ ars metrica et poetica, in usum Scholarum Belgii.
2. Ovidii Nasonis Tristium, libri tres.
3. Virgilii Opera omnia cum notis Ruæi.
4. Horatii Opera Selecta.
5. Ovidii Fabulæ Selectæ ex libris Metamorphoseon.
6. Homerí Iliados liber primus græce.
7. Appendix de Diis et Heroibus Poeticis, auctore Juvency.
8. Ph. Cluverii Introductio in Universam Geographiam.
9. Geographie Ancienne, abrégé par Danville, 3 vol.
10. Gradus ad Parnassum.
11. Canisii parvus Catechismus Catholicorum.
12. Continuation de l'Histoire Belgique de Des Roches.
13. Abrégé de l'Histoire Ancienne de Rollin, par Tailhie, 5 vol.

* I brought over a printed poem in Latin, by a pupil of this class, the versification of which has been admired by persons whose judgment I much prefer to my own.

Rhetorique.

1. Præcepta Rhetorices in usum Scholarum Belgii.
2. Ciceronis Selectæ Orationes, 3 vol.
3. Taciti Annales.
4. Cicero de Officiis.
5. Titi Livii Historiæ.
6. Horatius.
7. Illiados Homeri liber secundus.
8. Abrégé de l'Histoire Ancienne de Rollin, par Tailhie, 3 vol.
9. Géographie Ancienne.
10. Sphere.
11. Canisii parvus Catechismus Catholicorum.
12. Continuation de l'Histoire Belgique de Des Roches.

All the pupils in the two lower classes of the little form and the great form, are obliged to attend the French class also. All the pupils in the two higher classes, viz. of grammar and syntax, are obliged to attend to receive instructions in English. All the pupils who advance as far as the two

highest classes, *viz.* of poetry and rhetoric, are also obliged to receive instructions in German. All the boarders and day-boarders are obliged to learn these languages; as to the day-scholars it is entirely optional. In the four lower classes, the professors give instructions in arithmetic and mathematics, history, and geography. The pupils in the two higher classes attend the mathematical professor. The hours of study are more close than in England would generally be borne. During the six summer months the pupils get up at five, and from that time till nine at night, the distribution of their time stands thus:

Dressing	-	-	-	-	$\frac{1}{4}$ hour
Prayers morning and evening					$\frac{1}{2}$
Studies of every sort	-				10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Meals, recreations, and mass					4 $\frac{1}{2}$
					<hr/>
					16 hours.
					<hr/>

They have the other eight hours of the twenty-four, to undress and rest in bed. During the six winter months they get up at a quarter before six, and the only difference in the distribution of their

time from summer is, that they have a quarter of an hour less time for study, and half an hour less time for recreation. Should the parents wish their children to receive lessons in dancing, fencing, or any other ornamental accomplishment, they must be given in the hours allotted for recreation.

The appointments of the professors who attend to give instructions on the foundation of the college are :

Professor of French	-	1200 francs
English	-	1200
German	-	1200
Drawing	-	800
Mathematics		1200

The professor of drawing attends only twice a week.

To excite emulation both in the professors and pupils, there is every year a public examination, conducted with every possible solemnity, in the presence of the constituted authorities, the commission of studies, the parents of the pupils, and the respectable inhabitants of the town. To the most distinguished pupils are given,



prizes, and crowns of green leaves are put upon their heads. Five prizes are conferred for Latin, three for Greek, two for the Catechism, two for History, two for Geography, two for Mathematics, two for French, two for English, two for German, two for each branch of Drawing, and one for good conduct. As a farther stimulus and as a reward for distinguished merit, there are several bursaries of 200 francs each, to be obtained by superior progress in learning.

There is a library for the use of the young gentlemen.

The board of the students is an important affair in England. In the college of Ghent it is as follows : at breakfast tea, milk, white bread and butter ; their dinner consists of soup, vegetables, two dishes of hot meat, and a dessert ; their supper consists of sallad, a dish of meat, with a dessert. On days of abstinence they are served with fish. The regent, sub-regents, and professors, dine with the students.

The expense of education in the college, is as follows : for board, lodging, and education, 450 francs per annum, (18*l*. 15*s*.) paid three months in advance. The vacation is

from the 1st of September to the 1st of October, and those who remain pay a month extra. The apparel and washing is at the expense of the parents; but the college will undertake the washing for 40 francs. The half-boarders pay 300 francs per annum. The day-scholars pay 72 francs. The number of boarders is at present about 80; and the whole number of pupils together is not quite 200.

There were several English boys at the college of Ghent when I visited it. In attending mass they were allowed to use the English common prayer book, whilst the Flemish boys, used or professed to use, the Flemish translation, or the Latin service. In the present state of religion amongst the higher ranks in Belgium, there is little risk of the boys being proselytised to the Catholic faith, but that they will leave the college with no attachment to any particular form of Christianity at all, is even more than probable. A lad will never be teased much in real earnest for being a heretic, but unless he possess a vigorous constitution and true courage, he will often have to feel that he is an Englishman and a foreigner.

I know well, the laws and regulations in theory, afford him a very powerful defence ; but every man who has a practical knowledge of boys, and of large schools, knows the utter impossibility of a lad having common justice, who cannot protect himself. Every parent may not know this, but every schoolmaster knows it well.

There is one very important part of the business of the college, which I have not touched upon, and that is the punishments. Boys as well as men must have laws ; and laws, as Blackstone observes, are of no avail without punishment. The punishments inflicted on the pupils according to the gravity of the offence, are as follows :

1. Being separated from the other boys, during the hours of recreation, without permission to play with them, or to speak to them.
2. Being obliged to eat at a solitary table, apart from the rest.
3. Wearing an extraordinary mark during recreation.
4. Being put in prison during the day.
5. Expulsion from the college.

The first three punishments amongst the bigger boys, whose passions are strong, and who are daring, are not found of great avail. The main stress of discipline rests on the fourth, namely on imprisonment. On this account there are many solitary cells at all the colleges, and there are always culprits confined. For slighter offences, one day may be enough ; but three, five, ten, or fifteen days are sometimes necessary. A great deal of time is thus lost. It is a remedy of slow process, and it would appear often inefficacious. I question if it be at all an improvement on the wisdom of Solomon, who recommends a rod ; and I conceive there is no reason why our great schools of Westminster and Eton should not persevere to follow the precept of the Jewish king, and continue a system, which at once humbles the pride of the daring offender, and feelingly, though painfully, convinces him of the necessity of obedience.

An infirmary for the pupils is attached to the college. Every pupil, on entering the college, must produce a certificate of

having had the natural small-pox, or of having been inoculated for the natural small-pox, or by vaccination.

I have preferred giving a minute account of the college of Ghent, rather than of Brussels, or any of the other great towns, as I have official documents for every word I advance, and therefore am not liable to fall into those errors, which, in spite of every industrious inquiry, and every discrimination of judgment, will invariably more or less occur, when we depend on private information.

The college of Brussels bears a higher name, but I do not consider it as equal in accommodation to the pupils, and I do not know in reality, that their progress in learning is at all greater. In fact the pupils there are by far too numerous. The appointments of the professors are better, and therefore if practical talents for teaching were rare, Ghent might in that respect be inferior. The appointments at Ghent, though limited, are certainly enough to afford a respectable subsistence. The sum demanded of the pupils at Brussels is 680 francs per annum. The half-boarders pay

400 francs per annum. To an English family settled at Brussels, it is much better to send their boys as day-boarders, as the good supper which they will get at home, will make up for the deficiencies of a diet, which, though good enough for Flemings, will not be found entirely satisfactory to them. For 120 francs more, that is for 800 francs in the whole, the college undertakes to renew the dress of the pupil, of which it is required he shall have a complete stipulated assortment when he enters.

Such are the colleges of the Netherlands, and upon nearly this plan are all the central schools or *lycées* in France, and in the countries which, before the downfall of its power, owned its sway. The difference between one central school and another, will arise from the greater or less wealth and population of the place, affecting consequently the appointment of the professors, the number employed, and the sum expected of the pupils. At Paris, they expect 1000 francs per annum; at Rotterdam, 800. In all of them the pupils assemble by beat of drum, are ranked by those of their own number, who are raised to be sergeants

and corporals, and are in some degree under their control. The lowest age of admission is ten, and by seventeen or eighteen, a number of well-educated youths are sent out into all the active and useful departments of life. Some, however, remain at the colleges till twenty or twenty-two.

The church, both here and in France, has seminaries of its own, and in the present depressed state of the ecclesiastical finances, no superfluous learning can be afforded.

The study of the law, after leaving college, is requisite for one who would follow it as a profession. It is also deemed here, as in Scotland, an elegant and almost necessary accomplishment for a gentleman, and the school of law at Brussels naturally holds the first rank in reputation.

Of the schools of medicine and the fine arts, I shall say nothing at present; but shall here conclude this letter, in which I have more than enough trespassed on your patience.

I am,

Your's, &c.

G

LETTER VI.

MY DEAR SIR,

CHANGE of scene is necessary for happiness, and after residing long enough in a town to become familiarised with the principal objects, the mind feels prompted to go on. This induced me and my companion to take places in the Diligence for Brussels, and so at 11 o'clock we set out.

Good fortune placed me directly opposite an elegantly dressed handsome young lady, going on a visit to Brussels; her *femme de chambre* had the place next to her, my companion sat next to me, and two Flemish gentlemen occupied the corners. There were no outside places, and the inside fare for thirty miles was seven francs.

The road as usual was paved like the streets of London; a row of trees was on each side between the pavement and the ditch; the country on each side was a dead

flat highly cultivated, and covered with the richest crops, without hedges, but richly adorned with trees. Few or no cattle were to be seen by the way. The soil is here too valuable, and they may be reared cheaper elsewhere. We had considerable amusement from the number of boys who came near the coach to obtain money by their amusing gestures, and by the declaration of their politics. Experience has taught them who are their best friends, and "*vive England*," "*vive Angleterre*," are ventured as a speculation, which seldom fails to bring a rich return. In other parts of the road, parties approach and throw roses into the coach, and join in songs of victory, to commemorate the valour of our armies. "*Vive Lord Wellington et cela pour Napoleon*," drawing at the same time the finger across the throat, is another artifice they successfully employ.

The Flemings are merciful to their horses, and conducteur and postilion reckon four miles an hour quite speed enough. We came to a little elevation of ground, which the Flemings called a "*Colline*," and one of them a "*Montagne*." As

near as I could judge, it might be a rise of twelve or sixteen feet in a quarter of a mile. It was however deemed sufficient reason for conducteur, postilion, and passengers, to get down and walk. We changed horses twice, and were on the road till half past seven in the evening.

Travelling by the public conveyances of the country, and dining at a *table d'hôte*, is the only way to see the natives and their manners without any disguise. A man may travel in his own carriage, and dine in his own chambers, from Calais to Constantinople, and come back none the wiser. If he do so, he will have little society, and that is not very likely to familiarise with him, as if one of themselves. Whoever mingles with the Flemings will find them an amiable, polite, kind-hearted people; and it will be his own fault, if he do not obtain their friendship and good-will.

I have already given you a hint of the female manners, in the little anecdote of the lady in the barge from Bruges to Ghent. In the Diligence for Brussels, the young lady who with her *femme de chambre* was going thither, told us she was about to be

married in four months to a gentleman in Ghent. This did not prevent my companion, who knew the manners of the country, from paying his addresses to her in the coach, and before they had gone many miles, every thing was arranged. The bargain was fixed by kissing her hand and lips. They parted when the coach arrived at Brussels, and I suppose have never since met.

We found the Wellington hotel, looking into the park, superior in accommodation to any in which we had been. On the one side we look down on the ramparts, and the country around, which here varying in its surface from the usual flatness, presents agreeable prospects. The houses round the park have a fine appearance, like those of the better part of Piccadilly. The glass of the windows is however miserably bad and uneven. It is so in France. This is the only part of Brussels that is very agreeable, for in the lower part of the town the streets are narrow, ill-paved, and dirty. They also wind to and fro in such a manner, that without a guide you can never find the way.

It is almost unnecessary to say any thing of a town so well known. I may however observe, that the library is very extensive, as also the collection of pictures. The Academy of Fine Arts musters from 400 to 500 students, who receive instructions from two masters for painting, two for architecture, two for engraving, and two for statuary. The Royal College has about 300 boarders, and 500 pupils in the whole. The Botanic Garden I shall not venture to despise, as it might possess objects of value I could not discover. It is, however, very small, and makes but a very poor appearance. The schools of law and medicine enjoy a high reputation.

Being desirous of seeing the manner in which the hospitals were conducted, I obtained admission into that of St. John. It is very handsome, the floors are of marble. It had formerly been a nunnery, and many of its splendid decorations still remained. The place was very clean, and every possible attention seemed to be paid. Nuns were in attendance on the sick, and the beds seemed comfortable. I took notice, that every patient had at the foot of his

bed, before his eyes, a picture of his Saviour on the Cross, to remind him of the great physician whose sovereign power could restore health, or confer on him everlasting life. Of the skill of the medical attendants I cannot decide; but in other respects I venture to feel assured, that the hospital is not excelled by any which even our own metropolis may boast of.

What Briton can come to Brussels and not pay a visit to Waterloo? Such Britons we may hope are rare indeed. Even now it often forms the theme of conversation at Brussels, and all have some anecdote to tell of the British soldiers who had quartered with them before the battle, or whom they went to bring back wounded from the field. The hotel where I put up, was particularly calculated to renew the feelings, which the recollection of such an event must have on every patriotic mind. It bore the name of the great hero of the age, who on that day crowned his former glory; and an Englishman is also sure to be told, that from that hotel the brave General Ponsonby set out to bear a noble part in accomplishing the triumph he lived not to enjoy.

The usual mode of proceeding is to take a barouche, for which you pay 25 francs, and unless a party unite, no cheaper conveyance is to be had. You are solicited also to take a guide, but that is unnecessary, as a peasant on the spot will answer the purpose equally well, or most likely better. As it is now become a sort of holy pilgrimage, there are regular *stations*, at which every patriot will stop to indulge in the warm feeling which rises in his bosom. Our party, which was fourteen in number, as usual, stopped at Waterloo village, opposite the church, about two miles from the field. We entered the church to view the monuments erected to the memory of the brave.

One, in Latin, was for Wm. Norman Ramsay. Another was sacred to the memory of

Lieut.-Col. Edward Stables ;

Lieut.-Col. Sir Francis D'Oily, K. C. B.

Lieut.-Col. Charles Thomas ;

Lieut.-Col. William Miller ;

Lieut.-Col. W. Henry Milner ;

Capt. Robert Adair ;

Capt. Edward Grose ;

Capt. Thomas Brown ;
Ensign Edward Pardoe ;
Ensign James Lord Hay ;
all officers of the First Guards.

There is also another monument to the memory of Major Edward Griffin, Lieut. Isaac Sherwood, Lieut. Henry Buckley, and Lieut. Wm. Livingston Robe. The next place to which we were conducted, was to a gentleman's garden, about one hundred yards from the church, to see the willow tree planted over the leg of the Marquis of Anglesea, and the monument and inscription near it, expressive of the same, and of the great event by which it was occasioned. On returning to the Inn, we were shown the Duke of Wellington's bed-room, and the bed on which they told us he slept the night before the battle. We then went forward to Mont St. Jean, and were teased by the people offering us to purchase relics of the field ; and also by a peasant, in the usual dress of a blue smock frock and cotton night cap, insisting that he was La Coste who had been with the Emperor on the day of the battle. As La Coste was known to some of the party, he

did not succeed. Cuirasses, helmets, hats, swords, pistols, balls, bullets, ornaments and remnants of all sorts and descriptions, enabled every one to gratify his taste, in the selection of objects as a memorial of the day. Cuirasses were 15 francs, swords were from 5 to 20.

We turned to the left, and went on towards Hougomond. On turning down the lane, which leads to it from the highway, we observed the trees all marked and notched by the musket-balls, many of which the peasantry had cut out for sale. The Chateau is still in ruins. The little chapel had also suffered ; the roof was destroyed, and half the feet of the Crucifix of Jesus was burnt away. In the garden, the marks of the balls are to be seen on the trees, and there still remain the loop-holes in the brick walls, from which the English guards sent out their destructive fire upon their assailants. Five hundred of our countrymen here fell ; but three thousand of the enemy perished to avenge their death. The place of their interment is pointed out.

We walked by a narrow path for a mile across the fields, to the poor miserable Inn

of La Belle Alliance. We went to the place where Wellington and Blucher met on the evening of the day when the French were flying in disorder, and the brave Prussians had come up, and were joining in a pursuit which proved so fatal to our foes. We entered the Inn and had some refreshments. We were told it had been purchased by an English gentleman, who intended to build there a Chateau.

The spot where the Emperor was, with La Coste beside him, is next to be seen. It is the best place from which to have a view of the field. This was an advantage clearly in favour of the enemy, and heightens therefore the merit of our army in gaining the victory. I may here observe, that it has been said La Coste was pinioned on horseback. La Coste denies that. He was retained against his will, but no personal insult of that sort was shewn him, and he still believes he would have been rewarded, if the event had turned out differently. The rewards he now reaps from private individuals, probably pay him better than all he would have received from Imperial gratitude. Our country, by pure valour

and main strength, beat the tyrant to the ground. On the field of Waterloo we must scorn the aid of an unfounded report. From this place may be seen to advantage, that part of the wood from which the Prussians under Bulow came out on the evening of the day.

We walked along the road towards La Haye Sainte, and were shewn the place where the Imperial Guards made their last desperate but unsuccessful effort. In the great barn of La Haye Sainte the blood is still seen on the walls, and the balls in various parts of the wooden furniture. The gate is bored in ten thousand places by the balls, like a sieve. It has been covered on one side with wood, to keep it from falling to pieces. A little memorial is erected, on the end of the house next the road, to the heroes of the German Legion, who there perished when their ammunition was spent. The marks of cannon-balls are seen in the walls, which are repaired with fresh lime.

Wellington's tree, which was about the centre, is the best place in the English line to view the field. It is a fine elm, which overhangs the road, and has been called

Wellington's tree, from the Duke having been near it a great part of the day.

To have a more complete prospect from Hougomond to the farthest extent of the left wing, I climbed up ; some of the branches had been shot off by cannon-balls, and the marks of leaden bullets are numerous. One, which a peasant boy who came with me pointed out, I cut out, and have preserved among many other things, as a precious relic from the field. I was here shewn the spot where General Picton, and where the honorable Sir Alexander Gordon fell.

Close by this tree commences a little lane, with a small hedge on each side. In the middle of this lane the armies met at the point of the bayonet, about six o'clock in the evening. The British were victorious, and from that time, said La Coste, the efforts of the French were only to make good their retreat.

Our emotions of mingled triumph and regret on this day, I cannot describe. All now is silence and peace. Heavy crops of waving corn conceal from view the graves of the dead. Twice indeed we saw a piece

of the body of a horse, but nothing more. To this memorable field, where the fate of the world was decided, for ages to come the British traveller will resort.

For three days before we were there, the weather had been wet ; on that day it was fine. Two other parties of our countrymen were on the field. The Indian Jugglers also, who had been exhibiting at Brussels, came out on horseback. An American and his lady, though burning with envy at the glory of England, felt compelled to view the scene of her triumphs. On my second visit to Brussels, I found at the Hotel de Brabant a party of American captains, who had come in a post-chaise on purpose from Antwerp, and who went next day to Waterloo.

Having gratified our feelings, we returned to find our carriages to Mont St. Jean. The people of the Inn had expected, or pretended to have expected, that we should have stopped to dine ; but as we had ordered dinner at Brussels, it was of course not in our power. Their insolence in consequence, and their extortion for what refreshments we had, were only li-

mitted by their fears. A party of peasantry also, on each side of the road, with their swords, cuirasses, helmets, &c. to sell, were equally annoying, because the amount of our purchases, they said, fell short of what they ought to have been. The horses having at last finished their repast, the sluggish drivers, who seemed to be in concert with the people of the Inn, at last brought them out. We drove off, impressed with the propriety and duty of warning our countrymen to beware of Mont St. Jean.

In conclusion of this letter, which finishes all I have to relate of Brussels and the neighbourhood, I have much pleasure in stating, that there is an English church established, close by the Academy of Fine Arts, very respectably attended. Our countrymen, though less numerous than usually supposed at home, may amount to upwards of two hundred families. It would perhaps be ingratitude in any Briton not to call to mind the kindness shewn by the people of Brussels to our wounded countrymen after the battle; and to state also, that they still speak in terms of high regard for

our army, particularly the Scotch. We are both citizens of the world, I shall therefore not obtrude any national or provincial feelings upon you, but they were often highly excited by the people of Belgium.

I am,

Your's, &c. &c.

LETTER VII.

MY DEAR SIR,

WHEN you come to Brussels, and wish to go on to Antwerp, you will have two ways of proceeding by a public conveyance. One is by the stage coaches, of which there are enough to ensure a fair competition, and which travel with tolerable expedition; and the other is by the canal. To persons who have time at command, the latter mode is preferable. You pay next to nothing, two francs and a half, and a trifle besides for the best seats. You sit at your ease, move along without the smallest fatigue, and enjoy on each side such a prospect, as cannot fail to yield the highest gratification. You have also an opportunity of mingling in an easy familiar manner, without ceremony and without reserve, with the natives of the country; and you thus learn their manners and opinions better than by any

H

other way. On the passage I commenced an acquaintance with two of our countrymen, whose society afterwards yielded me the highest gratification. They had found out by experience what I have just stated, had abandoned their carriage, and had determined ever after to adopt the public conveyance of the country. The day was delightful, and on looking back on Brussels, the palace of Lacken, and the numerous chateaus on the rising ground not far from the canal, we enjoyed such views as the continent of Europe seldom exhibits. The canal is very noble, and the country on each side very fine. We passed large heaps of stones, which they were loading to carry to Holland to repair the dykes. At Antwerp, we saw large masses of stone brought from the same quarter. The trees on the side of the canal were poplar, aspin poplar, called here *Bois blanc*, some oaks, all diminutive, and many beech trees, which come to much greater perfection. The beech trees in the forest of Soigné, as you go to Waterloo, are as large and fine tall straight timber as it is possible to conceive. As there is a considerable fall in

the ground, and consequently a great loss of water at the opening of every lock, it is deemed preferable to move the passengers and luggage to another boat, so that we were in four different boats. To walk now and then a hundred yards is no great trouble, and as the people connected with the boats move the baggage, it is no extra expense. We at last came to the banks of the river Neethe, which runs into the Scheldt*. We crossed it during a tremendous shower of rain, and got into the Diligence, which goes from thence to Antwerp. Our passage-money had also paid for all this. The road goes forward, straight as a line, which no mathematician could improve. In one part of the road looking forward through the rows of trees, which seem gradually to meet, the distance may be three or four miles; as you look back, the same remarkable sight is presented to the eye. As we approached to Antwerp,

* *Sch* in Dutch, is pronounced like *sk*: hence pronounce Skeldt, Skiedam, Skeveling. — *Ch* is also hard; hence pronounce Walkeren, Utrekt, &c. I state this, as I have found many ignorant of the true mode.

we saw an immense extent of ground laid out in gardens. The *Corderié*, or great rope-walk of Bonaparte, in which were prepared the rigging of the vessels intended for the destruction of England, makes a conspicuous figure. It is a building three stories high, and of a hundred windows in each. The lofty tower of the great cathedral, and the steeples of the other churches, raising their heads above the trees, and looking over the ramparts, seem to frown defiance as you approach. As we drew near, the vast extent and formidable defence of the outworks, the great breadth of the ditch, and the unassailable strength of the walls, indicated the importance of this vast naval depôt, which France so justly valued, and which her ablest engineer, Carnot, was sent to defend.

The great object of the traveller ought to be to see not merely such sights as accident may have brought to any particular town in which he is, but those important objects upon which its existence and greatness depend. The objects of first importance then to be seen at Antwerp, are the river, the arsenal, the shipping, the

quays, the great bason, the canals, and the warehouses. The river appeared larger and broader than the Thames between the bridges. It is navigable at high water for line of battle ships some miles higher up. At present there are no ships of war. By the articles of capitulation the French were allowed to retain some, and these are gone for France; the others are in the Texel, or at Flushing. The arsenal is something of the nature of Woolwich Warren. The guns of the town and citadel are laid up in the warehouses, and also the military stores. There are no ships of war building. The river, however, presents a wood of masts. In walking along the quay, we made enquiry, and found there were about fifteen or sixteen English vessels, and three American. There were also six French vessels, but these were far up above the citadel, at a distance, to prevent quarrels and bloodshed. The English and Americans were lying alongside, like brothers. So it is always the case in foreign ports. The American government and our government may fall out, and engage the people in war, but they cannot destroy the friendly sym-

pathy which, in spite of every political difference, subsists between individuals. The same language, the same love of freedom and contempt of foreign slavery, the same religion, the same laws, and substantially the same form of government, compel Englishmen and Americans to feel for each other a mutual respect and esteem.

The bason dug by the French for the ships of war is very fine. It was not high water when we saw it, yet it was twenty-two feet deep. It is extremely convenient for the shipping and unshipping of goods, and therefore a higher port-duty is paid for entering it, than at the quay along the river. In the vast building close by the bason, called the Oosterlings house, or magazine built for the trade of the Hanseatic league, are seen the marks of the cannon-balls thrown in during the late bombardment by the English.

Many small canals run up into the town from the river. These were filled with small vessels from the interior of the country, from Brussels, Ghent, Louvaine, &c. A great many fishing vessels also belong to the town. The shipping and

trade of Antwerp give an appearance of bustle and activity to the town, which incontestably prove, that a great deal of business is done, whether it be enough to satisfy commercial cupidity or not. You at the same time hear many complaints of nothing being done, and so I heard at Rotterdam and Amsterdam, although the number of ships and barges continually arriving and departing, proved beyond a doubt the contrary to be the case.

The English goods could not be expected to be bought up in the manner they had been. Such an abundance of every sort had been poured in, that the market was doubly overstocked. I heard the same account from our countrymen travelling on business every where. In the small and remote towns, they had more success than in the large. I was sorry to hear also every where, that some of our countrymen, by sending over goods which but ill corresponded with the samples, and goods also which had a much better external appearance than they afterwards turned out to deserve, had hurt the credit of the country, and compelled our mercantile men

to bring their goods, where formerly samples would have done. When goods are sent, and a duty paid, they must be sold, and loss is thereby often occasioned. The English, if they would maintain their superiority as a manufacturing and commercial country, must be on the alert. Cotton manufactories on a large scale are established at Ghent; the woollen cloth at Liege and other towns, they tell us, is better, though dearer, than that from England. For the duties to be paid, I refer to the next letter, which will give an analysis of their tarif. The merchants of Antwerp will undertake to get most kinds of goods introduced below the regular duties. The Douaniers are rather shy of giving twelve *per cent.* on the declared value, and taking the goods to themselves, as in some instances, where they have done so, they have been great losers. The Netherlanders display a great jealousy of English goods, and it is not greatly to be wondered at. Their manufacturers suffer greatly by the competition, both in their own country, and in Germany, and the workmen dread being compelled, like many of the Swiss, to aban-

don their employment, and seek their livelihood in a foreign land.

England is however far from being the greatest enemy in regard to trade, and the conduct of the French at this moment displays the vexation they feel in losing Belgium, and their desire to recover it whenever it may be in their power. France, when both countries were under one government, used to take off the hands of the Belgians the produce of their manufactures. The wines, &c. of France were received in exchange. Now that they are no longer united, in order to make the Belgians feel it to be a painful and unhappy separation, not a single article is allowed to cross the frontier. The goods which France stands in need of, she will deprive her subjects of, to her own hurt, to compel the Belgian merchants and manufacturers to regret the past, and look for a change in the future. It is to be feared some of them do so. Three lines of Douaniers guard the frontiers. In going to Paris, between passing the frontier and entering Cambray, my own little portmanteau was five times examined. It has been said again and again,

both in the French and English newspapers, that the Army of Occupation gives assistance to the Douaniers. It is not for me to presume to censure the conduct of the great statesmen who regulate these affairs, but they must reconsider the subject again, before I can bring myself to offer them my humble tribute of applause.

The city of Rubens and Van Dyke does not fall behind the rest in its support of the fine arts. The Academy has a noble collection of the finest pictures, many of which were brought back from Paris, and also models in plaster for the use of the pupils. In winter, four or five hundred devote their time to receive instructions of the different masters. In summer, perhaps seventy or eighty. Amongst so many, who thus in every great town apply themselves to the fine arts, and who have every facility afforded them, either for nothing, or at a very low price, distinguished talents must frequently appear, which only require the sanction of time, to give their names the applause and fame, of which the earlier masters are now in possession. Great pains are taken to excite emulation. At Ghent,

Brussels, and Antwerp, I saw the pictures exhibited which had gained the annual prizes. They are purchased by the towns, and the names of the artists, and the occasion on which they gained the prize, are exhibited in gilt letters along with the picture. The distribution of the prizes is conducted with every solemnity which can give it effect, and is in the presence of the constituted authorities, the principal artists, and most respectable people in the country. Crowns are put on the head of the successful candidate; and if he be from another town, the honors with which he is received on his return, remind us of the manner in which the ancient Greeks were wont to welcome home their citizens who returned victorious from the Olympic games. In the distribution of prizes at Ghent this summer, which took place about two days before I arrived, David the painter took an active part, and had much homage shewn him on the occasion. While so much pains are thus taken, it is evidently not the fault of the people, if the Flemish school do not maintain its ancient glory.

At Antwerp, a considerable trade is car-

ried on in pictures. In the Place de Meir, which by the bye is truly a grand street, we went in to see an exhibition of pictures, said to be by the first masters, which are kept for sale. Many of them you are compelled to admire, but there were others, and those too which had high-sounding names, for which 700 and 1000 Napoleons were demanded, which, unless I had previously known where to sell them, I should have thought dearly purchased at a hundredth part of the sum. It was an excellent place for a man to get rid of his overflow of cash, if in these days such a thing is ever found to exist. Lace also, which they shew at the same place, and for which they demand 70 and 80 Napoleons a yard, would readily contribute to the same effect. It is perfectly unnecessary to say any thing to you, of objects so well known as the painting of Rubens, in which his father, himself, his three wives and family are introduced. It is in one of the churches, and is one of those rescued from the grasp of the all-voracious tyranny of France. It is such a picture, as having seen once, you must see it again.

In several churches are most beautiful pictures. In the yard of one of the churches, may be seen the statues of apostles, saints, and martyrs, in such number, as might, without much exaggeration, be called an army. There is also there to be seen, what they tell us is an exact representation of the tomb of our Saviour at Jerusalem, and if I had not read Dr. Clarke's or Chateaubriand's travels, I might have believed them. It may nevertheless answer the purpose intended, by exciting the piety of the faithful. That nothing may here be wanting to make an impression on the senses, there is a rude representation of hell against the wall of the church, in which the flames are of bright red, and the heads of the poor wretches in agony are in white plaster. It may perhaps excite salutary alarm; for our two countrymen, whom I accompanied, seemed very thoughtful and serious when they looked at it.

The cathedral is as grand a church as any I have ever beheld. From the top of its most beautiful tower, 432 feet high, I viewed the city lying under my feet, the windings of the Scheldt, the bason, the

citadel, so renowned for strength, the distant towers of Malines, and Breda, the road to Ghent, and afar off the island of Walcheren. The pictures and decorations of the cathedral are exquisitely beautiful, and the service is well attended. I am sorry I have to bear witness too of a piece of superstition, which I should have supposed would in these days hardly have taken place. After mass, the priest brought out a something, which the devotees fell down on their knees round the rails which encompass an altar, in order to behold. He applied it to the lips of one, wiped it with a towel, as was indeed right, and applied it to another. He did so I suppose to one hundred or one hundred and fifty poor meanly dressed men and women. And what was this sacred object of devotion? To the honor of Antwerp, and the nineteenth century, be it known it was a picture, within glass, of St. Anthony of Padua. The "*Swisse de l'Eglise*" informed me, a leg of that Saint was kept in the cathedral, as a very precious relic. I was pretty near the priest, and my guide with me, when this scene was going on. He looked at me, and

his expression of countenance seemed to me to say, he wished an Englishman had not been present on such an occasion. I felt for the priest. An old custom it is sometimes difficult to lay aside, and a man of sense is mortified in being obliged to bear a part in a scene which he himself knows to be unwise. I leave this matter for the private consideration of those whom it may concern, and shall ever continue to be,

My dear Sir,

Yours, &c. &c.

LETTER VIII.

MY DEAR SIR,

As Antwerp is the principal commercial town in Belgium, the present is perhaps as proper a place as any, to give an account of the duties of import and export for the provinces of Belgium. You will keep in mind that the present government has not been long established, and that after farther experience, some of the regulations now enforced may be expected to be altered or amended. In Holland the tariff is not the same.

The principles of political economy which the Belgic government had in view, in forming their tariff of duties, will appear on reading over the list of articles, and the duties imposed, to be as follow :

1st. To find employment for Belgic industry, by admitting without duty, or for a very low duty, raw unmanufactured mate-

rial: as wool, flax, hemp, cotton, hides, metals, &c.

2d. For the same reason to prohibit the exportation of these articles, if there were any risk of not having an abundant supply.

3d. To protect Belgic manufactures by a total prohibition, or by imposing a very heavy duty, on such manufactured goods as their own country can produce.

4th. To encourage the erection of new manufactures, and to raise a revenue on such manufactured goods as Belgium cannot supply within itself at present.

5th. To raise a revenue simply, by a duty on colonial produce, &c.

Under the first head, on reading over the tarif, we find the following articles: Alum, bones, bee-hives, cattle, charcoal, copper, calamine, cotton, flax, hair, hemp, hides, manure, mercury, nets, oil, oak bark, old ropes, potass, saltpetre, seeds of all sorts, silk, steel, tools for mechanics, for manufacturers and fishermen, wool, zinc.

Under the second head we find the exportation of the same articles prohibited, with the exception of alum, cattle, cotton,

potass, silk, steel. Flax and hemp may be exported on paying a small duty, as may also salt-petre, on paying 10 per cent. Fish oil may be exported duty free, but the oil made from poppies, whether native produce or not, may not be exported. It is used in the manufacture of cloth.

As to the precious metals, they may be imported and exported free of duty. The ignorant dread of being drained of a circulating medium guides no part of the system of political economy in Belgium.

Under the third head, we may select in the list a considerable number of articles. Beer is charged a duty of twenty francs for a hectolitre*, (about 2½d. an English pint), whilst wine pays only eight francs for nine hectolitres, or about three farthings a gallon of English wine measure. The country of Belgium produces abundance of barley, and the beer is good. That of Brussels, and particularly of Louvaine, is justly cele-

* The hectolitre, or 100 litres, make 6102 cubic inches. The litre, the usual liquid measure in Belgium and France, contains 61 cubic inches. The English quart of beer contains 70³ cubic inches.

brated. It is exported in stone bottles, and sells in Holland at about 8*d.* a bottle. The bottles hold more than our quart bottles. Casks are prohibited. Coals are charged a duty of 10 centimes, for 120 kilogrammes. The intention of this is to exclude English coals, which are much better, and to secure the sale of those from Mons, Liege, and the neighbouring country. Corks are charged 20 per cent. Cloves are prohibited *in toto* to be brought from foreign countries. Carpets and tapestry are charged 20 per cent. Carpets are very little used in Belgium. In Holland the poor people have mats, and the rich not unfrequently have both mats and carpets. Woollen cloth is charged a duty of 15 per cent. Cotton thread is prohibited *in toto*. Cotton goods, not exceeding a franc and a half in value for seven decimetres*, are also prohibited *in toto*. Cotton printed goods, not exceeding two francs in value for seven decimetres, are prohibited *in*

* The decimetre is very nearly four inches, and therefore seven decimetres are about twenty-eight inches English.

toto. Skins tanned or curried, are prohibited. Fresh fish, and salted or smoked herrings, excepting from Holland, are prohibited *in toto*. Brine, and some kinds of soap are prohibited. Their pottery is secured by a duty of 20 or 25 per cent. on foreign importation.

This is that part of the continental system which exists in Belgium. We act in a similar manner. We prohibit foreign lace and silk goods, and whatever we think proper; foreigners consider themselves to have a right to prohibit also. In general, the system of prohibitions is condemned by Dr. Adam Smith, as bad policy; it forces the national industry into a channel into which it is not beneficial it should go; and he shews that it is better to buy from foreigners what they afford cheaper, in the same manner as it is better to buy shoes of a shoemaker, than to try to make them at home. *Vide* Wealth of Nations, book iv. chap. 7 and 8.

Nations, however, will not be so wise and liberal in their dealings, and seem to strive who shall become most independent of the other, to the destruction of commerce and

all its blessings. The continental system of the late ruler of France, by excluding British manufactures, necessarily raised many sorts of goods to a very high price, which gave encouragement to the native manufacturers to commence making them. The long continuance of the war gave time to bring many manufactures to such perfection, that the people wish now to supply themselves. The rulers of Spain, France, and Belgium, are not sufficiently grateful to England to receive her manufactures, where they can do without them. If the King of the Netherlands were to listen to half the bad advice his Belgian subjects are constantly giving him, both in the newspapers, and in the provincial states, the list of prohibited goods would be much more extensive than it is.

We may select from the tarif, and arrange under the fourth head, those goods which Belgium cannot furnish in sufficient quantity, or not at all. A duty of five per cent. is laid on the following : books bound, cambric, cordage, dried fish, files and saws, grindstones, glass for mirrors, gold wrought, jewellery, hydromel, red lead, instruments

for agriculture, millstones, musical instruments, oil of spices, olives, silk for embroidery, sulphuric acid, wax. Books unbound pay three per cent. A duty of six per cent. is charged on kerseymeres, and all stuffs of wool mixed with cotton or silk, white wood, muriatic acid. A duty of eight per cent. is charged on glue of all sorts, quills dressed, and copper and brass wire, silk stockings. Most articles pay a duty of ten per cent. as blankets, brushes, candles, clocks, clothes for men or women, carriages, cotton goods not prohibited, fire-arms, furniture of every sort, goods manufactured from steel, silver, and copper, hosiery of all sorts, including all sorts of stockings, except of silk, hats of straw or waxcloth, hair cloth, leather gloves, waxcloth, cloth made from flax or hemp, but if bleached or dyed, twelve per cent. Nitric acid, salt, parchment, polished marble, sealing wax, sewing thread, umbrellas and parasols, wax candles. To which are to be added, merceries, under which are included in the tariff, bobbins, battledores and balls, bellows, clock and watch dials, chaplêts, coffee and pepper mills, dominos, drums,

dice, fans, lanterns, leather purses, masks, mirrors, necklaces of pearls, and of false stones, pearls and false stones, playthings for children, pouches, portfolios, rackets, sheaths for swords, &c. spoons, spy glasses, sewing needles, small boxes, tobacco pipes of all sorts, tobacco boxes, except of gold or silver, trunks, whistles, works of wood, as boxes, writing desks. The articles on which is laid a duty of 15 per cent. are basket works, buttons, combs, glass, hats of hair felt or wool, leather, white porcelain, shoes, boots or slippers, woollen goods of every sort, not exceeding four francs for seven decimetres. If the woollen goods are worth from four to six francs for seven decimetres, the duty is 12 per cent.: if worth from six to nine francs, the duty is 7 per cent.; if above that value the duty is 4 per cent.

It would appear from this tarif, that the Belgians think they can manufacture enough of the coarser cotton and woollen goods for themselves, and did not wish to admit such from abroad. As to colonial goods, a duty on coffee of one franc is imposed on 50 kilogrammes; on raw sugar, the duty is

just one half that on coffee, or 50 centimes for 50 kilogrammes, *i. e.* five-pence for about 134 lbs. troy weight. On refined sugar, whether in loaves, candied, or in powder, the duty is 20 francs for the same quantity, or forty times as much as for raw sugar. Of course a monopoly is secured to the Belgic sugar-baker. Molasses pay 10 per cent. Tea pays 10 per cent. Cochineal pays five francs for fifty kilogrammes. Rum pays seven francs for 100 litres, which is just ~~10~~ what beer pays. Tobacco in leaf pays five francs for fifty kilogrammes, not $\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb. and if imported by Belgic or Dutch ships, only three francs. Tobacco of Porto Rico pays ten francs for fifty kilogrammes ; that of Brazil pays fifteen francs. Tobacco cut, or in segars, or in snuff, pays twenty-five francs for fifty kilogrammes, or about $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ in the pound, troy weight.

I shall now take leave of the subject of commercial regulations, and in my next proceed on with the account of my journey.

I am,

My dear Sir,

&c. &c.

LETTER IX.

MY DEAR SIR,

BEING desirous of seeing the country by Bergen-op-Zoom, and along that coast, we took three places in the Diligence which goes by that route. The expence for each was $22\frac{1}{2}$ francs, or about 18s. 9d. The hour of departure was four in the morning. Of the other three passengers, for there were none outside, one was an Englishman going on commercial business into Holland, another was a Swiss officer who had made the campaign in Russia under Napoleon, and was returning from Antwerp to join his regiment at Bergen-op-Zoom, the third was a native of Rotterdam, who spoke both French and English so as to be understood, but neither with ease. The carillons of the cathedral announced the quarter, and then the half-quarter. The horses were put to, and just as the carillons again announced the hour of four in the

morning, the coach set forward. Having passed through the gates, and over the drawbridge, we looked with admiration on the tremendous foss and walls. The road for the first stage was paved. The country was flat on each side, but well cultivated, and we passed some country seats and grounds beautifully adorned. At the end of an hour and a half we were stopped to allow time to feed the horses, for we could get no others till we arrived at Bergen-op-Zoom. We took this opportunity to breakfast. It is a route no gentleman should attempt in his own carriage, as post horses can scarcely be had. If he must come this way, he had better send on his coach by the route of Breda, and himself take the public conveyance.

After the first stage the roads were very bad. The wheels sunk four or six inches in the mud. The rains had fallen heavily, and many fields were overflowed, and about some heaps of hay the water stood half a foot deep. Streams of water ran across the road. In some places the little covered channel, which was to carry it under the road, was broken open, and we had to wait

while it was repaired. Conducteur and postilion were very active, and we got on better than could have been expected. As we proceeded, the road did not improve, and the horses were often half up the leg in water. We at last got to the frontier of Holland. A guard-house was by the road, and the soldiers demanded to see our passports. We entered Dutch Brabant, and with the recollection of past history, rather than a consideration of present circumstances in our minds, we felt as if we had passed from a land of slaves to that of freedom, like our own dear native land, the praises of which were then upon our lips.

We had not gone far before we came to a wide extensive moor, the view of which presented sterility and desolation to the eye. We were obliged to turn aside from the high road, and proceed by bye roads, usually employed for bringing home the turf, which is pared off for firing. A few sheep here find a miserable existence.

After some miles we at last came to Bergen-op-Zoom. This fortress, so renowned for strength, makes no appearance to the eye at a distance. We passed the

outworks, crossed the drawbridge over the vast outer ditch, and through the gate of the outer wall; the ditch was dry, but water could easily be let in. We crossed by a drawbridge the vast inner ditch, and entered the gate into the city. A strong guard was posted there, but no passports were demanded. We were now in Holland, and except at Amsterdam, such things are not in use. We had barely time to view the place where our brave countrymen entered. We admired the valour that could have overcome such obstacles, and we felt as Britons ought to feel, when we recollected their subsequent disasters, and had to lament that such valour was unfortunately thrown away. Bergen-op-Zoom is, in the collection of the revenue for patents or licences, reckoned a town of the sixth rank. It is said not to contain above five or six thousand people. The streets are narrow, and the houses mean and closely built. The Dutch gentleman told us, it was nine hours or twenty-seven miles distant from Antwerp. It cannot be quite so much. We arrived about nine in the morning.

On leaving the town, we found a well-cultivated country, though it was not very fertile. We soon got to the little town of Steenberg, which is fortified by two ditches and two walls, like Bergen-op-Zoom. It was useful in former times to preserve the possession of the neighbouring country. It had a small garrison in it. On leaving Steenberg we approached to a small river, and had an opportunity of observing the manner in which it was embanked. There was a strong dyke of turf, but all covered with long grass and grown together, at some distance from the river. There was another dyke close to it. If the water should rise so as to burst or run over the first dyke, the second dyke kept it from overspreading the whole country, and the space between the dykes afforded the water abundance of room to run along. The bridge was a large barge with a platform at each end, to enable carriages to drive on and off, without inconvenience. We did not get out of the coach. The boatmen pulled us across, and we drove on to another river a little farther on. I was told it was larger than the first,

but I did not see it. I had dropped asleep, and so very smooth and easy was the passage, that we were nearly a mile past before I awoke. The country improved as we proceeded, and the green meadows with the ditches, the pollard willow trees, and the herds of cattle, exhibited the characteristics of Holland. We soon got to the little town of Willemstat, which is fortified with out-works, a single wall and ditch. There was a guard of invalids who looked at us, but demanded no passport.

As we drove along the narrow streets, we observed the fronts of the houses in some places stuck with cannon balls, thrown in during a siege by the French under Dumourier. The inhabitants are proud to preserve them as monuments of their glory.

We had now to leave the coach and embark in a boat to cross a wide arm of the sea, called the Holland's Diep. It usually occupies an hour, and should the weather be bad, is very unpleasant. Happily for us, the weather was delightful, the wind blew fair, and half an hour landed

us in the Island of Voorn. At the little village where we stopped waiting for the coach, we had occasion to remark the Dutch neatness and cleanliness, and the long curling twisted ear-rings, with the broad gilt plate under the caps of the women. The roads through the island were miserable indeed. The land which lay below us on each side, bore very weighty crops, but was sadly flooded by the rains, and the farm-houses, which appeared certainly substantial and commodious, were rendered difficult of approach. A stork perched on the top of a house close by the road, near a nest placed for him by the farmer, looked on us with the confidence of habitual security and protection.

We had again to drive on a floating bridge, and be carried across to the Island of Ysselmond. The country had very rich crops. We saw before us the tower of the Groot Kerk of Rotterdam, and just as it was become dark, we got to the opposite bank of the river. A boat was ready to carry us across, and the proprietor, with great honesty and exactness, had another coach ready to complete his contract, by

carrying us to the office in the middle of the town. For a guilder more the coach took us to the Boom Quay, and put us down at the Wellington Hotel. Being at the end of a fatiguing journey, I conclude with subscribing myself,

My dear Sir,

Yours, &c. &c.

LETTER X.

MY DEAR SIR,

OUR amiable poet Goldsmith, in his Traveller, has a few lines so descriptive of Holland, that I take the liberty here to transcribe them. They are lines which I know you admire.

“ To men of other minds my fancy flies,
 Embosom'd in the deep where Holland lies,
 Methinks her patient sons before me stand,
 Where the broad ocean leans against the land;
 And sedulous to stop the coming tide,
 Lift the tall rampire's artificial pride;
 Onwards methinks, and diligently slow,
 The firm connected bulwark seems to go,
 Spreads its long arms against the watery roar,
 Scoops out an empire, and usurps the shore;
 While the pent ocean, rising o'er the pile,
 Sees an amphibious world beneath him smile;
 The slow canal, the yellow blossom'd vale,
 The willow-tufted bank, the gliding sail;
 The crowded mart, the cultivated plain,
 A new creation rescu'd from his reign.
 Thus while around the wave-subjected soil
 Impels the native to repeated toil,

K

Industrious habits in each bosom reign,
And industry begets a love of gain.
Hence all the good from opulence that springs,
With all those ills superfluous treasure brings,
Are here display'd. There much lov'd wealth im-
parts
Convenience, plenty, elegance, and arts."

I decline transcribing the remaining lines upon Holland, in which the poet passes severe reflections on the Dutch, and describes them as crafty and mean, and their country as a land of tyrants and a den of slaves. I saw nothing to justify so illiberal an opinion.

The city of Rotterdam has been greatly admired, and it is one which, when visited, will not disappoint the expectations which have been raised. As we proceeded through the streets on our way to the hotel, we felt delighted on viewing the regularity and grandeur of the houses, the splendour of the shops, the neatness of the streets, the crowds on the footpaths, the rows of trees, the broad canals, the forest of masts of large vessels, with the trees, lamps, and houses on the other side of the street beyond the canal. The whole formed a scene which indicated it was no ordinary city, and

no ordinary people. It afforded us an additional pleasure, as a proof of the superior influence of our country, to find at the hotel, on speaking French, it was not understood, but that English answered exceedingly well. A good supper was served up to us in the English style, and good port was put on the table. We had a good English carpet under our feet, and the transition from the naked boards of the Netherlands was felt a comfortable change.

When I awoke next morning, and looked out at the windows on the broad expanse of the Maese which lay before me, I was delighted with the activity of trade which was going on. The tide was up, and the wind blew a fine fresh breeze. Three vessels were beating against the wind, and by the help of the tide, were working down ; many small craft and boats were doing the same. A number of fine vessels also were lying at the side near the quay. On the opposite bank of the greenest of grass, stood a vast array of trees, not indeed very high, but extending as far as the eye could reach, and with the regularity of a regiment

drawn out in line. It was pleasing, though not picturesque.

On taking a walk, with a view to find a guide, I soon discovered that this was no easy matter to accomplish. After addressing more than twenty lads and men, both in French and English, no other answer could be obtained, than "*Canna verstand, Mynheer*;" for though the merchants and people of good education speak English and French, the common people know only Dutch. There was no other resource than getting a guide from the hotel, and that is always an unpleasant thing, as the men who offer their services there, are generally idle, worthless characters, whom nobody will employ; besides they tell strangers a number of lies, at which practice has rendered them adroit, and their main effort is to conduct their employers by as distant a road, and to as few places as possible in the same walk, so as to lengthen out their own occupation. A boy found in the town generally answers best, as he is active, easily kept under command, and possesses a flow of spirits and a readiness of communication, which fur-

nishes amusement and information. We obtained for our guide an old man, a native of England, who had been settled at Rotterdam for 35 years.

When we went into the town, we observed almost every man, from the merchant who sends his ships to both Indies, to the poor boatman, in the doit boat * on the canal, wearing an orange cockade; clergymen, physicians, and lawyers did the same, or had an orange ribbon at their button-hole instead. We afterwards found the same thing universal throughout the whole country. Every man is staunch for the present government, and resolute to oppose the French. With good reason, therefore, the government entrusts the whole nation with arms, and has the Landstrum disciplined in their use before or after Divine Service on Sundays. To have been seen without an orange badge a year ago, would have exposed even a stranger to the risk of a severe personal chastisement from the mob, or a sound ducking in the canal.

* The doit boat is so called from a doit or half farthing given for crossing the canal.

It is not without good cause, that the Dutch entertain so decided a hatred against the French. They had called them in as brothers and allies, and experienced them to be the cruellest of enemies. The wealth of Holland depended on its foreign trade, and consequently on its connection with England. To this the continental system was directly opposed, and the Ruler of France perceived, that with his politics, the Dutch were of necessity irreconcilably at variance. For this reason he recalled his brother from being their King, because his humanity would never allow him to second his views. From that period, every thing was done to depress Holland. Her foreign trade was totally annihilated. Her manufactures languished. The cannon, stores, &c. were removed, so that when the Cossacks appeared at the gates of Amsterdam, there was not a musket or an ounce of gunpowder in the town, to second the zeal of the people. The lands of the church were divided and sold. The funds in the Bank, from which, in addition to the lands, the church and the schools were supported, were also seized, and a deceitful promise

was held out, that the full annual revenue should be paid by the government. To weaken the power of the Church, and gain over the dissenters, who are very numerous in Holland, it was promised that their ministers should have salaries also. So they had for a while; but for the three years preceding the downfall of the French, not a stiver had been paid to ministers of any description. They were therefore reduced to beggary, and in a time of universal distress became a burden on the people to which they were unaccustomed.

The following statement of the vessels, exclusive of fishermen, which entered by the Brielle and Helvoetsluys, will shew to what extent the trade of Holland suffered by its connection with France:*

In 1802,	- - -	1786 vessels.
1803,	- - -	850
1804,	- - -	693
1805,	- - -	679
1806,	- - -	381
1807,	- - -	294
1808,	- - -	65

* Tableau de Rotterdam.

Such was the effect of the war, and of the continental system united. For the following years, until 1813, the number was so extremely small, that no account was kept. Such was the happy change which took place on the expulsion of the French, that from November 1813, to December 1814, the number was no less than 1284. Experience has therefore taught the Dutch the superior advantage of connection with England.

At present, the English goods are brought into Holland in such quantities, that the exchange is greatly in our favor. For a pound note we received at the rate of 11 guilders 17 stivers. The par is very nearly 11 guilders. An immense quantity of goods had been thrown in after the opening of the ports, so that they were sold cheaper in Amsterdam and Rotterdam than they could have been purchased at Manchester or Birmingham. The Dutch had gained immensely at the expense of our speculators.

Whilst we were at Rotterdam, there was lying there a steam-vessel, which had been on a voyage of experiment up the Rhine.

There was then no probability of her being established as a regular conveyance on that river. In the course of my journey, I had the unpleasant proofs of there not being even sufficient encouragement for a good diligence. It was in contemplation, as I was told by the captain, to go between Rotterdam and Antwerp, and it may probably answer. The saving a troublesome road on which they have to cross five rivers, will be to the public a decided advantage. The good King William, with that amiable desire which he ever shews to encourage whatever may be of public utility, went on board the steam-vessel at Rotterdam, and in her made a short cruise up and down the river.

After walking about the streets admiring the immense canals, crowded with vessels and barks, curiosity led us to the Groot Kerk, the principal church in the town. We found the door-keeper who let us in. It was a large edifice ; but how mean and tasteless seemed the bare, damp, white-washed walls, after being accustomed to the marbles, the pictures, the altars, the rich monuments and ornaments of the

churches of Belgium. The mean and inconvenient old benches of plain unpainted deal, which filled up the body of the church, would not have appeared to advantage, to a stranger coming directly from England or Scotland. It was a relief to the eye, to view a fine organ, the superb Mausoleum of Admiral Kortenaar, the monuments of Admiral de Wit, and of other two naval heroes, Admirals de Liefde and Brakel.

We made some enquiry of the price of living at Rotterdam. The bread was nearly the same as in England. The flour is brought down the Rhine, and the bread is the whitest we had ever seen. Butchers' meat was about 4½*d.* per lb. Beer nearly the same as in England. Vegetables were very cheap. A man servant had for wages 36 guilders a year, about 3*l.* 5*s.* A day-labourer in the fields has about 15*d.* a day. A journeyman carpenter has a guilder and a half, or about 32*d.* and is glad to get it, for often work is scarce. Other trades are much the same.

I have no intention to lead you into a minute account of a city so well known,

and shall therefore conclude this letter with a few remarks on the Spiel-houses, an institution peculiar to the Dutch, and infinitely disgraceful to their character. Before leaving England, I read an account of them in the travels of Sir John Carr ; but so odious did they appear to me, that I could not help supposing the worthy Knight had been imposed on ; at least I entertained a hope that I should find he had exaggerated. The truth, however, is still stronger than what he stated. The fact is too true, that in this country which professes to be civilized and free ; to be reformed and Presbyterian, many beautiful helpless young women are confined as much as prisoners in Newgate, being never allowed to go out into the street, and are compelled to submit to the drudgeries of prostitution, as much as if they were galley slaves at the oar. They are thus retained until youth and beauty being gone, they can no longer yield a profit to their remorseless keepers. They are then turned loose to the mercy of the world. Such are the establishments into which every even-

ing, but particularly of a Sunday, the Dutch take their wives and daughters for the purpose of amusement.

Accompanied by an English gentleman, resident in Rotterdam, we went to see them. Several of these houses were in the same street. As we went along, we heard the sound of music and dancing. After passing a curtain at the door, as into a booth at a fair, we found a long room, which was brilliantly lighted up. Four musicians were at the farther end. There were forms all along at each side, and people sitting. The unfortunate females, decked out in their finery, were walking in pairs, up and down the room, and some were dancing together, or with such of the visitors whose indifference to character allowed them to join. No charge is made on coming in, but it is expected that each person will call for something to drink. A bottle of beer or a glass of punch, for which are demanded eight stivers, being double the usual price, is what is generally called for.

Each of us of course did so, and gave the liquor to the unhappy women. They accepted it with thankfulness, but manifested no inclination to drink much, for amongst their iniquities, drunkenness is not to be reckoned.

The manner in which an unhappy girl is brought into this situation, is this. When she is involved in debt, which is but too often the case, the keeper of a Spiel-house comes to her, flatters her, and professes to wish to be her friend; he points out in alluring colours the comforts of his house, and agrees to advance her what money she requires. The poor thoughtless girl in the time of her distress consents, and signs an obligation to remain in his house, until the money shall be repaid. Her keeper supplies her with dress and other articles, of course at an exorbitant charge, and such a bill is run up, that there is no hope from the usual improvidence of unhappy women that it will ever be discharged; unless, what sometimes, though very rarely occurs, any one becomes so fond of her, as to buy her off. Such iniquitous bargains are sup-

ported by law, and the police officers will bring back any woman who makes her escape. The poor wretches are never allowed to go out, and in the evening when they are dressed out in their finery, they are made to parade up and down the long room, and to dance for the benefit of their keepers. It is shocking to see men of respectable appearance bring their wives and daughters to view this scene of vice, but we were still more hurt at seeing young men bring in their sweet-hearts to such a place.

Of these houses there are many at Rotterdam and Amsterdam. They may have been permitted at first, from a vain hope of diminishing the amount of vice. It would appear however, that if that was the case, the hope has completely been disappointed, for at Rotterdam the houses of iniquity of various descriptions are so numerous, that on asking our friend of Rotterdam, and our guide, and also the master of the hotel, we uniformly were told they were five hundred in number. It was our amazement at the number, which made us ask

three different times, and the answer was always the same. It is high time to leave such a place, and therefore I subscribe myself,

My dear Sir,

&c. &c.

LETTER XI.

MY DEAR SIR,

WE have often remarked together, in reading the accounts given by voyagers and travellers, of barbarous tribes, that whatever other inventions they might be totally ignorant of, they always found out the art of procuring intoxicating liquors. The Tartar procures it from his mare's milk, and the chiefs of the south sea islands effect the same purpose, by mixing in the bowl, the chewed root of the kava. The English and Dutch have rivalled each other in the same destructive art, and as we were not above five miles from Schiedam, in which town and in Flushing almost all the Dutch distilleries are established, we resolved to go and see it. It was a gratifying circumstance, that one of our countrymen with us, was minutely acquainted with the theory and practice of the art.

The carriage went rapidly along over a fine road, paved according to the custom of

the country, with Dutch clinkers, or hard bricks. A deep canal lay along the side, the same that goes to Delft. Along the canal, at almost the distance of every stone's throw, was a windmill, either for grinding corn, sawing wood, for preparing materials for some manufactory, or for raising water up for the fields, or throwing it off.

The smoke of Schiedam announced its trade. There are in that little town two hundred and four distilleries. The Dutch have no secret in the business, and we were allowed to see the process. It in fact consists in nothing more than in three simple distillations, and the scientific methods practised in England to improve the liquor, are here not in use. The grain from which it is obtained, is wheat brought down from Germany, which gives an advantage in the materials above the English gin, which is made from barley and oats. The distilleries are none of them large. At Schiedam, which is a town of the fourth rank, a distiller who has not more than three stills, pays for his patent or licence, 25 guilders; if he has from four to six stills, he pays 48 guilders; if he has

above that number, his patent costs 95 guilders. The coals made use of are chiefly those from the neighbourhood of Liege. The English coals are reckoned much better, and some of them are used to make the others burn more readily. They would be generally used, were it not that the very heavy duty upon them almost amounts to a prohibition. Throughout Holland turf from their own turf-pits is the usual fuel. A hundred pieces, each about the size of a brick, cost at Amsterdam about a guilder.

After seeing Schiedam, I took leave of our two countrymen, with regret that their intended route did not allow me any longer to enjoy the pleasure of their society. I stopped at a little village by the canal, for the treckschuyt from Rotterdam to Delft. One goes exactly every hour. The landlady knew no English or French, but the language of signs, with the words *Vrouw, brood, beer, kaas, glass yon Genevre*, made her produce with great good humour a comfortable repast for a hungry stomach, and with her fingers she easily informed me how many stivers I had to pay. I

found in the ruif, or best cabin of the treck-schuyt, an American gentleman, who had been nine months in Holland. Like myself, he was in want of society, and in spite of the politics of Mr. Maddison and Lord Castlereagh, the community of language and ideas made us feel, in the midst of Dutchmen, that we were brothers from the same stock. I was happy in finding a companion to impart to me information, for the other six passengers, although (*mirabile dictu*!) two of them were women, sat in almost total silence the whole way to Delft.

The company afterwards to the Hague was nearly equally indisposed to talk.

At Delft, it is necessary to get out and walk through the town, and porters are ever in attendance, to carry the luggage to the treckschuyt for the Hague. A traveller must never leave his baggage, or the porter will soon convey it out of the way. The town, to use the Dutch mode of computation, is from twenty to twenty-five minutes long, and from ten to fifteen minutes broad. It is of the fourth rank in estimating the taxes. Our baggage being secured at the nearest inn to the Hague boat, I re-

turned with the American gentleman to view the town. It is extremely regular and neat, and the canals which run through the principal streets, by means of sluices may be cleaned every day. It is celebrated for its potteries, its *maison de force*, its military school and arsenal, and the noble monuments in the churches.

We were shewn the place where in 1584 the brave and victorious patriot William I. of Nassau, Prince of Orange, and founder of the liberty of Holland, was assassinated by a monster employed by the cowardly and bloody Philip II. of Spain. The monument of William in the great church is the noblest I have ever seen. I do not think there is any thing in the great Museum of national monuments at Paris which can be compared to it. Beneath the monument is the vault of the Family of Orange. Among the many figures of this interesting monument is that of a faithful dog, which had once saved the life of his master, and which died of grief, having refused to eat any thing after his death. In the same church are monuments to the memory of Grotius, who was a native of Delft, and of Lewenhoeck,

names of which Holland may justly be proud. In the old church (called by the Dutch *Oude Kerk*) we stopped to see the monument of Admiral Martin Tromp, at the foot of which is represented in marble the last engagement he fought with the English in 1653. He was killed in the action which was fought on the 1st of August.

We went on board the treckschuyt for the Hague, which was about an hour and a quarter's distance. A fine road runs along the side of the canal, and trees and wind-mills are as usual.

The whole expence from Rotterdam to the Hague, including the carriage of luggage, was about 2*s.* sterling. On entering the town we saw a party of the lower orders of both sexes in their holiday clothes, singing and making an entertainment in a treckschuyt on the canal. About ten o'clock, in walking about the town, I heard another party engaged in a similar manner.

Of the Hague you have heard so much, that there is little left for me to tell you. All the accounts the Dutch have given of its grandeur and magnificence might perhaps appear true to them, but will not ap-

pear so to others. It is however a neat, handsome town, and kept remarkably clean. The maid-servants may be seen of a morning, taking up buckets of water from the canals, and emptying them on the street and footpath, and scowering them with mops with all imaginable care. A well-dressed tradesman of the town offered himself as a *domestique de place*, and we ascended the tower of the principal church, to view the town and surrounding country. At a distance of two miles are the sand hills, and the fishing town of Scheveling by the sea. Delft appears not far off. The Briell, Helvoetsluys, Munster, Rotterdam, Dort, Gouda, Woerden, Utrecht, Leyden, Haarlem and Amsterdam are also pointed out.

A prospect from a tower of a church in Holland is almost uniformly the same. The town and canals lie beneath your feet. Around the town are some gardens and walks, with canals, grass fields, willow-trees and cattle. The scene becomes fainter as it recedes, and afar off in the horizon are the vast square towers of the churches of

the towns, of which the guide gives the names.

On inquiring of my guide if the States General were sitting, he told me they were, and that I might go in and hear the debates. On procuring the Paris papers at a coffee-house in the evening, I learned the States had risen ten days before. I do not think my guide meant to deceive, but so little interest do the proceedings of Parliament excite, that I verily believe the poor man knew nothing at all of the matter. When one considers of what materials their two houses are constituted, one feels no wonder at all at this. Ardently as I always desire to read a debate of the British Parliament, I think if I were to become an inhabitant of the Netherlands I should be like the rest. The Constitution and Government shall be the subject of the following letter, and that also shall embrace all the Netherland politics I mean to send you. Before closing this I shall state, that the regiment of Nassau, and a regiment of Belgians, formed the garrison of the town. The amiable King William was then resid-

ing there, and preparations were making by the people, to demonstrate, on the return of the Prince of Orange, the affectionate attachment they felt for both father and son.

I am,

&c. &c. &c.

LETTER XII.

MY DEAR SIR,

LIKE every other good Englishman, you are in the habit of talking politics, and so are your neighbours. In that you are certainly right. It was a law of the Athenian legislator Solon, that whoever did not take a side in any civil discord, should be treated as a public enemy. He very wisely argued, that no man who loved his country as he ought, could be so indifferent to its interest, as not to form his judgment and express it. I am apt to have an unfavourable opinion of the heart of every man in our own country, who is perfectly indifferent and neutral, on all the great topics that agitate the public mind. As in political conversations, we usually make a comparison with foreign countries, and as the kingdom of the Netherlands is one of our own fostering, which professes to have a free constitution like our own, and as it is one with which

we have at present an intimate connection, some account of its government and system of finance may not be uninteresting. I wish I could set out with eulogising it, but I am sorry to say, I find but few grounds on which I could, with any propriety. So far at least it is satisfactory to know, that whatever defects exist in our own constitution, it is nevertheless by far the best yet that Europe can shew.

The royal prerogative in the Netherlands embraces the whole powers of the English crown. The King has the direction of foreign affairs; names and recalls his ambassadors and consuls; he makes war and peace; concludes treaties; he coins money; confers titles of nobility; disposes of all forces by sea and land, and appoints and dismisses the officers. In addition to this the King possesses the supreme direction of the finances; and regulates and fixes the salaries of the colleges and the functionaries. "The supreme direction of the colonies and of the possessions of the kingdom, in all other parts of the world, belongs exclusively to the King."

With all these unquestioned prerogatives, it is evident that the royal power in theory is much greater than with us, and it is so in fact. In discharging the duties of the kingly office, the advice of a council of state composed of twenty-four members is taken.

In Britain the exercise of royal power, whatever it may be in theory, is liable to be controlled by the two houses of Parliament. It is the balance which is thus produced between one branch and another of the government, and the constant check which one has upon another, which prevents it from running into tyranny and abuse. In the Netherlands they have two houses also, but when one comes to examine the materials of which they are composed, the mode of formation, and the powers assigned to them, it is at once seen, that this pretended resemblance of the British constitution is barely a shadow, that it can possess little influence on public opinion, and little or no control over the Executive Government.

To begin with their first chamber, which is to perform the duties of our house of Lords. With us the peers are men for the most part of large and independent fortunes, possessing their seats in the upper house, and their honors and privileges, on an equally sure foundation, and by the same law, by which the King himself holds his sceptre and his throne. They thus possess by their wealth, as well as by their constitutional powers, an influence in the country, by which they are qualified to stand between the King and the people, and have a control over both. They are to check all unlawful exertion of authority by the one, and the disorders and anarchy of the other. Let us now see how far the first Chamber of the Netherlands is qualified to do this. They are not to be fewer in number than forty, nor more than sixty. They have no hereditary right to their seats. They are named by the King, indeed for life, but lest there should arise amongst them, any young man of enterprise and ambition, or whose character the Executive had not had time to comprehend, they

must be forty years of age before they can be appointed. It is evident then they are merely a council of state of royal selection. Now as to the personal independence of the members, and their natural influence and weight in the country, let the following article of the constitution speak for itself. "The members of the First Chamber receive, for the whole indemnity of their travelling expences and their abode, the sum of 3000 guilders per annum." A House of Lords composed of from forty to sixty members, named by the King, and of which each member stands in need of an annual salary of 270*l.* sterling, is not such a body of men, as could compel a magna charta from King John, or sway the nation to restore a second Charles to the throne.

The Second Chamber, or House of Commons, consists of one hundred and ten members, being fifty-five from the Northern provinces, and an equal number from the Southern, according to the following list.

Brabant Septentrional	-	7
S. Brabant Meridional	-	8
S. Limbourg	- -	4
Gueldre	- -	6
S. Liege	- -	6
S. Flandre Orientale	-	10
S. Flandre Occidentale	-	8
S. Hainaut	- -	8
Hollande	- -	22
Zealande	- -	3
S. Namur	- -	2
S. Anvers	- -	5
Utrecht	- -	3
Frise	- -	5
Overysse	- -	4
Groningue	- -	4
Drenthe	- -	1
S. Luxembourg	- -	4
Members		<hr/> 110 <hr/>

It will appear by the above list, that there are in fact nine Provincial States in the northern provinces, and the same number in the southern. I have prefixed an S. to the southern or Belgic provinces. It will be seen by the list that Holland sends two-

fifths of the members of the northern provinces, or one-fifth of the whole kingdom. Drenthe, under the old Dutch Government paid one-hundredth part of the national revenue, but had no voice in the national representation.

Such is the wealth and independence, or patriotism of these gentlemen, that they require to be paid their travelling expences to the Hague or Brussels, where the States are alternately assembled, and a salary of 2500 guilders paid monthly. That is, they are pensioners of 220*l.* per annum, and are paid about 18*l.* a month. It is hardly of much consequence to inquire in what manner they elect members, who require 18*l.* paid every month, and what are the duties they are supposed to fulfil; but as we have begun the subject, we may go through with it.

There is no public meeting of the provinces, or of the great towns; nothing to rouse and animate the people, and make them feel that the country is their own, that the Government is that of their choice, over which they have a controul, and that the men they send to Parliament, are the

men of their choice, whom the Executive dare not but but respect.

Nothing of the kind is ever heard of. People must not think of politics on the Continent. The members are named by the States of the provinces, which we shall consider presently. I shall only mention the manner in which the members for the cities and towns are chosen. There is then, in every great town, an Electoral college, the members of which, in case of vacancy by death, are not chosen by public meetings, and open poll, like the London common council, but the police officers go round from house to house, and collect the billets signed and sealed, and from these they profess to determine who is chosen. In the first instance the colleges are named by the King. The Electoral college is convened once in a year only, to name to the vacant places in the council of the town. The members of the provincial states are chosen by this college, or by the council. The Provincial States choose the members to the Lower House of Parliament, and thus there are so many steps between the people and their supposed representatives.

that it is not a matter of vast wonder, to find men otherwise intelligent, who when questioned on this subject can tell nothing at all about the matter.

As to the duties of the Second Chamber, the propositions for a law must be commenced there, and not in the First Chamber. In our House of Commons, the grand power and source of influence is their control over the national revenue; and the necessity of having their *annual consent* to its principal branches. The Second Chamber of the Netherlands in this respect is very limited in its duties. The Budget is divided into two parts, the Ordinary and Extraordinary. The first part of the Budget, and the taxes by which it is raised, having had the consent of the States-General, is not again submitted to their consideration for *ten* years. Substantially, and in fact, the Crown is to enjoy a large and principal revenue, completely independent of the consent of the people. That is what our Second Charles so longed to obtain. By the theory of the Constitution, the King is to submit the Budget at the end of ten years, and to obtain the

consent of the States for the next ten years to come.

The second part of the Budget, for the extraordinary and unforeseen expenses of the State, and which refers chiefly to a time of war, is fixed for only one year. The King lays before the Chambers an annual account of the expenditure of the public revenue.

The members of the Second Chamber are chosen for three years, and one-third is renewed every year. That latter provision is alone sufficient to destroy their independence, if they otherwise had any. The Crown can surely secure a majority, in electing thirty-six members every year. If the 18th a month be very convenient, it will not be desirable to be thrown out.

The members of the Second Chamber may be able and worthy men, capable of giving the Government useful local information, and may be of service as a Council to advise, but hardly deserve to be considered as a branch of the Government, to rule or to control.

There is one great source of influence which keeps the eyes of the whole nation

fixed on our House of Commons, I mean their regulation of all the local interests in the country. In making a canal or a turn-pike-road; in the building of a bridge or a harbour; in the building of a church or workhouse; in new-modelling a vestry, or reforming the constitution of a parish; in inclosing a common, or in making improvements in a town; and in a thousand other instances, the people have to look to the House of Commons for the direction and regulation of a committee, and for the sanction of the whole House to the bill brought in. To this bill the consent of the Lords is also required. The weight and importance this gives to the House, is very great. Every man almost, and certainly every man of any property, has his immediate interest under its control. The members sent up from every part of the country, and of every profession and description, find occasion to exert their abilities, and bring their knowledge to account; if not in the great theatre of the whole House, yet in these private committees, to their own honor and the advantage of the country. With the whole of this, the States-General

of the Netherlands have nothing to do. All business of that sort is transacted in the Provincial States.

The Provincial States are for each of the provinces. The members are elected by the three orders of the State.

The Nobles, or *Corps Equestres*.

The Cities.

The Country districts.

"The States are charged with the execution of the laws relative to the protection of religious worship ; with the execution of the laws relative to its exterior exercise ; also those relative to public instruction ; to the administration of charitable institutions ; to the encouragement of agriculture, of commerce, and manufactures."

"The States are charged with what belongs to the interior economy of their province." They control the expenditure of the local administrations. "The Provincial States propose to the King, the undertaking or finishing of works and establishments, which they believe useful to the province."

In addition to the above very important duties, they have to elect members to the States-General ; and they have also to elect

a deputation, which is charged with the daily administration and execution of the laws. With these important and extensive functions, it is more than probable, that the Provincial States will be more looked up to by the people of the province, than the General States. At the same time, as they have nothing to do in their deliberations with the general politics of the kingdom, they are not so likely to become an object of dread to any arbitrary minister.

The right of petition is one of the greatest importance in every free state. When properly exercised, its influence on the Executive and Legislative authority is most extensive. In the kingdom of the Netherlands, as well as in France, it is very limited. It can only be exercised by an individual, and that only in his own name, and not in the collective name of any body of people whatever. The influence of such solitary petitions on any matter of general policy, can amount to almost nothing at all.*

* The authority for most of the facts stated in this letter, is the "*Loi Fondamentale du Royaume des Pays-Bas.*"

The taxes are the object of most interest, which comes home to every individual. In the Netherlands, the revenue is raised from the land-tax ; from the excise ; from the customs on the import and export of goods ; from licences for shooting ; from the lottery ; from the post-office ; from stamps, &c. The newspapers have a stamp of three, and some of five centimes. One hundred centimes make a franc, or tenpence. All play-bills and bills stuck up in the streets, must also be on stamped paper. There is a house and window tax paid by the landlord. The tax for windows is not according to their number, or extent of surface, but according to the rent. This is a better plan than that which has taken place amongst us. It does not lead the subjects to deface their houses, and to injure their health by excluding the light and air. It would be an infinite improvement, were our government to raise the same money, as they do at present from the window-tax ; but so to lay it on, either according to rent or any other rule, as to leave to every man, without injuring himself, to make his house as light and airy as he pleased. The

quantity of glass in the streets of a foreign town, strikes a Briton when he lands on the continent, and he is equally struck at the blank dead appearance of the houses on his return.

The most remarkable tax in the Netherlands, and with which happily we have not much to do, is that which falls directly on the greatest part of the community, and is that on patents. It is of the nature of an income-tax, and a tax on licences, combined. By the ordonnance or law published on this subject it is enacted, "No one shall be able to exercise any commerce, profession, industry, or trade, without being furnished with a patent." If a man carry on two trades or branches of business, he must have two patents. From the operation of this law of patents are exempted all persons who receive their salaries from the public revenues, as Ecclesiastics and Public Functionaries. Market gardeners, fishermen, and workmen in certain manufactures, are also exempt. For the encouragement of the arts, painters, sculptors, &c. are also exempt. So also are several others whom it is not necessary to

mention. The amount of tax for a patent is fixed according to the supposed emolument of the different trades, and of the individuals exercising them. For several species of industry the tax is fixed and certain, so that an individual may know what he is bound by law to pay. Of this description are various sorts of manufacturers, and persons employing mills moved by wind, by water, by steam, or by horses. Hawkers also have a fixed sum to pay for their patent. Merchants and shopkeepers of every description are required to make a return to the Government officers of the annual amount of their sales, according to which return the tax for their patent is to be fixed. The return is only for information. The Revenue officers are not bound to adhere to this return, but have a discretionary power to assess the individual as they shall see fit. "The Assessors (*Repartiteurs*) shall nevertheless be authorized, and it shall even be their duty, in concert with the Controller, to carry a person liable to the contribution to this or to that class, following that which they shall judge they ought to do, according to public notoriety,

their conscience, and knowledge acquired of the nature and amount of the sale*." For this purpose, they are required to take every means to inform themselves of the affairs of the individuals liable. Having made up their mind, as to what they shall call the amount which any one has sold; there is then a fixed scale, from which the duty on his patent is to be determined. Amongst the requisite qualities which it is desirable that every tax should possess, Dr. Adam Smith has shewn, that it is of great importance it should be fixed and certain, so that an individual may know what he has to pay, and also that he is not oppressed by the partiality of the collectors. The tax on patents is extremely liable to abuse on that head.

With regard to the greater part of professions and employments, the amount of the tax is equally uncertain, and places individuals at the mercy of the officers of the revenue. The people are all arranged into seven classes, according to the supposed amount of their gains. For some profes-

* Ordonnance de Patente, Art. XV. § 4.

sions and employments the class is fixed, so that there is no unfair dealing shewn. A banker is always in the first class. Some of the poorest trades are always in the seventh class. But with regard to most of the professions and employments, there are two, three, or four classes, in any of which a man is to be put, according as the collectors of revenue think fit. Thus a physician may be put in the third, fourth, or fifth class, and may have to pay at Amsterdam for his patent, the income of twenty-four visits to a patient, of forty-five visits, or of ninety visits, according as he is required. A goldsmith may be put in the fourth, fifth, sixth, or seventh class. So with regard to many others. It is evident what an engine of oppression this may prove in the hands of power. If a man speak out too freely, and expose an abuse of authority, without taking him before the police, fining him, or sending him to the *Maison de Force*, he may have a hint about his patent, and the class he is likely to be put in. His own mind will give the hint if the government officers neglect it. As the government officers also pay every clergyman, he may

also very easily get a hint, by delaying the payment of his salary a week or a fortnight. He will comprehend in a moment what is intended, without any explanation being given.

Clerks and men employed by others at an annual salary, pay in proportion to their income, at a rate increasing as the salary increases.

Now let us suppose a man is dissatisfied, and wishes to appeal. When our income-tax was in existence, it was the custom with us, for a man in that case to go before the commissioners, who were gentlemen and fellow-subjects, who paid like himself, who, though sometimes a little too zealous in their loyalty, and sometimes a little impertinent, yet nevertheless were serving without fee or reward, for what they thought the good of their country. It is not before such men you are to go in the Netherlands; nor in fact can you go before any one at all; you must state your grievance in writing on stamped paper, and send it with various documents to the controller.

This will not exempt a man meanwhile from payment of his tax. He must pay

down the money — but mark well ! he is to get his money back again, if it should be found that too much had been laid upon him ! He is to get his money back after parting with it ! Well, his reclamation is gone to the controller, the controller sends to the assessors for their opinion on the business, *i. e.* to the men who laid on the tax complained of. Their opinion, which is the only evidence called for, and the reclamation, are sent to the director of the direct contributions for the province ; and he is to send them to the governor, and the governor is to send them to the deputies of the Provincial States*. What chance a man has of getting back his money from so many hands, you will judge for yourself. The best way seems to be, to put up with the loss at once. And who do you think brought up this ingenious scheme of appeal ? It was that infamous tyrant of Europe, whom all the kings and ministers, with all their armies collected, so nobly put down. It is a pity they should ever take a lesson from him ; but some of his plans were so

* Ordonnance de Patente, Art. XXV.

convenient, and so sweet to men in power, that many of his old servants, now employed on the other side of the water, in those countries where he ruled, seem loath to lay them aside. Happily for us, he never established himself in our island, and I hope Englishmen will remember their own rights, and their own constitution, and allow none amongst themselves to imitate him. I shall make one observation more on the tax on patents. It was usually much complained of our income-tax, that it made an exposure of a man's affairs, and so does the tax on patents. In a bookseller's shop at Antwerp, I saw a printed book of the names of the hundred men, who paid the most for direct taxes in all the principal towns in Belgium. They told me it was printed to gratify curiosity. If the public is made to know the names of the first hundred, the same list also tells, who is not in the first hundred. In fact, all delicacy about the matter is entirely at an end.

The expenses of raising and equipping an army, and providing those stores of which the French had stripped the country; also the expenses before and after the battle of

Waterloo, produced a considerable debt, which the Government do not wish to form a part of the regular national debt, but to pay off as soon as possible. With this view, the tax upon patents, throughout the whole kingdom, has been doubled; some other taxes have been increased. In Holland, a tax is laid also on travellers in the *treckschuyt* on this account. The Belgians are not well contented on account of the rise of taxes, but the Dutch, whose trade has been restored, find themselves greatly benefited by the change of Government. In Holland it was required to lend a certain sum to the Government, for which interest was to be paid; or to pay a fifth of the sum required in the form of an annual tax. Those who lent Government had no cause to repent, as the stock soon rose above par.

The King of the Netherlands has taken a sure method of securing the military to his interest. He has increased their pay: that of the officers is nearly doubled. He has no occasion to dread employing officers formerly under Napoleon, as the principles of self-interest, which these gentlemen were supposed to learn in his service, will teach

them to adhere to the Sovereign who pays them best. In general, the pay of the soldiers is low on the continent. The pomp, the glitter, the parade of war, dazzle the eyes, and a man will go to sleep on the cold ground, in the rain, and take his chance of losing his life, or limbs, for less money than he will go to sleep at ease, under a sheltering roof, in a safe and comfortable bed. In fact no man is half so cheap as a soldier.

It is usual in the play-bills, to announce that military gentlemen, in their uniforms, are admitted at half the usual price. The feelings of the officers cannot be very fine, who will esteem it a compliment, to be held up to the public as genteel beggars, who cannot afford to pay like other people. The military establishment of regular regiments, and of the militia, may be about eighty thousand. Many of the battalions are very incomplete. Leave is given to the men to go home on furlough. I was told they give for this permission twenty guilders each. They have no pay during the time they are absent. There is a considerable national jealousy between the Flemings and Dutch, and it is not always safe to quarter the sol-

diers of the two countries together. Something of the same sort will sometimes shew itself in the General States, but this, it may be hoped, is only temporary, and will soon die away.

The police in Holland and in Belgium is very strict. There seems to be a considerable security against thieves and robbers; and yet when one visits the *Maisons de Force*, and sees the numbers confined by sentence of the law, it is difficult how to account for it, except that the culprits are kept there for a number of years. I was admitted to see that at Ghent. The outer court, where the houses of the officers were, was very airy and pleasant. The inner court was divided into three parts; the correctional, the criminal, and that for the women. Those in the correctional quarter were sent for two or three months, and the keeper informed me, some as long as for two years. Those in the criminal quarter were sent in for more than two years, for five, eight, ten, fifteen years, or for life. The women were for various periods, and were not, as the men, separated into different quarters. They were all very hard at work, weaving

and spinning. Such is the discipline kept up, that no conversation is allowed, except when in the yard. Even in the room where there might be two hundred women, not a word was spoken. In the whole house there might be about a thousand men and women. There is another *Maison de force* at Vilvorde, which is not far off. In the citadel at Antwerp, I saw several criminals walking in chains to work, and was told there were seven hundred altogether confined there. All that seems to say, there is still abundant room for farther improvement in morals.

I should be sorry if it should be supposed from the above statement, that it was meant to charge the present rulers of the Netherlands with tyranny, cruelty, or oppression. I do not believe any thing of the sort to exist. I do not believe, from what I have heard, that there are two better hearted men in Europe, or more humane and condescending in their conduct, than the present King William, and his son the Hereditary Prince of Orange. The amount of the taxes so very objectionable in the mode of raising them, is not exorbitant. The

money also which the King appropriates to the civil list, is not above 220,000*l.* sterling. The heir apparent, the Prince of Orange, had only 9000*l.* per annum; and since his marriage with the sister of the Russian Emperor has only 18,000*l.* A Queen Dowager is only to have 13,000*l.* These allowances do not seem extravagant. The administration seems, at present, to be labouring diligently to promote public prosperity; and I never heard from our countrymen who had been years in the country, and who from misfortunes in trade were inclined to state the worst, of any cruel and oppressive exertion of arbitrary power. All that is very satisfactory for the meanwhile; and it has been thought by many, that if kings and rulers were always to be wise and good men, and not liable to human frailties, and to be seduced by power, an absolute government would really be the best. But men and circumstances are perpetually changing; and many unhappy causes, from the influence of which humble individuals are sheltered, tend to draw aside from rectitude, the frail mortals who are exalted to high authority. Without

a really free constitution, the people can have no security for the permanence of their prosperity. A wise and energetic Catharine, may be succeeded by an insane Paul ; and who at this moment dare foretel what sort of government shall come after that of a kind and benevolent Alexander. Happy is it for us, who enjoy the protection of a free constitution ; and long may the sound principles of freedom animate every British bosom, to protect it from all enemies from *without* and from *within*. It is this energy and spirit of the people themselves, which is the real preservative of all that is great and good. Happy is it for our country, that we have a numerous body of opulent and independent men, who are the natural guardians of the people's rights, and whose interest leads them also firmly to oppose all measures which have a tendency to create anarchy and confusion.

I am,

&c. &c.

LETTER XIII.

MY DEAR SIR,

As the subject of patents or annual licences for all professions and trades, affords curious information respecting the state of society in the kingdom of the Netherlands, some farther particulars, which from unwillingness to be too tedious in the last letter were omitted, may here find a place. All the towns and places of the kingdom are divided into seven ranks, according to the following Tarif, by which their supposed relative consequence may be seen.

TARIF des Patentes par Classes selon le rang des Communes.

CLASSES.	1 ^{er} RANG.	2 ^e RANG.	3 ^e RANG.	4 ^e RANG.	5 ^e RANG.	6 ^e RANG.	7 ^e RANG.
	Amsterdam.	Anvers. Bruxelles. Gand. Rotterdam.	Bruges. La Haye. Groningue. Liège. Utrecht.	Mons. Delft. Tournai. Dordrecht. Gouda. Harlem. Bois-le-Duc. Courtrai. Leeuward. Leyde. Louvain. Maastricht. Malines. Middelbourg. Namur. Nimègue. Ossende. Schiedam. Zwol.	Alost. Ath. Alkmaar. Amersfoort. Arnhem. Breda. Campen. Deventer. Enkhuizen. Harlingen. Hoorn. Lokeren. Luxembourg. Nicolas (St.). Verriers. Ypres. Zaandam. Zierikzee. Zutphen.	Berg-op-Zoom. Bommel (Zalt). Brielle. Charleroi. Termonde. Delfhaven. Diest. Dinant. Edam. Grammont. Goes. Gorcum. Harderwyk. Hasselt. Huy. Isseghe. Lierre. Maas-Sluis. Menin. Meppel. Nivelles.	Les autres villes et places.
1 ^{er}	fl. s. 275 0	fl. s. 340 0	fl. s. 190 0	fl. s. 145 0	fl. s. 100 0	fl. s. 60 0	fl. s. 45 0
2 ^e	180 0	160 0	120 0	95 0	60 0	40 0	35 0
3 ^e	90 0	80 0	60 0	48 0	30 0	20 0	18 0
4 ^e	45 0	40 0	30 0	25 0	15 0	10 0	7 0
5 ^e	24 0	20 0	15 0	13 0	8 0	6 0	5 0
6 ^e	15 0	13 0	10 0	8 0	6 0	4 10	3 10
7 ^e	5 10	5 0	4 10	3 10	2 10	1 15	1 8

To explain the above, let us suppose an agent for the sale of foreign goods imported, who in estimating his patent, is put in the first class. If his business be conducted at Amsterdam, he will have to pay 275 guilders* or florins; if at Antwerp, Brussels, Ghent, or Rotterdam, he will have to pay 240 guilders; if at Bruges, the Hague, Groningen, Liege or Utrecht, he will have to pay 190 guilders; if at any of the towns of the fourth rank, he will have to pay 145 guilders; if of the fifth rank, 100 guilders; if of the sixth, 60 guilders. At all other places not mentioned in any of the first six classes, he must pay 45 guilders. Let us suppose the case of a poor porter or carter, he is in the seventh or lowest class, and pays for his patent, (which by the bye is on stamped paper,) besides the stamp, at Amsterdam, 5 guilders 10 stivers; at Antwerp, &c. 5 guilders; at Bruges, &c. 4 guilders 10 stivers; at Mons, &c. 3 guilders 10 stivers; at Alost, &c. 2 guilders

* The guilder or florin being about $21\frac{1}{2}$ in value, 11 of them will make a pound sterling. To reduce guilders to pounds, divide by 11.

10 stivers; at Bergen-op-Zoom, &c. 1 guilder 15 stivers; at all other places, 1 guilder 8 stivers, or about half a crown sterling.

Manufactures, which are usually carried on on a small scale, and on which the profits are not materially affected by local situation, have a certain sum laid on, and that sum is the same every where. Most manufacturers are put in a certain class, and pay the rate for that class, according to the town where they reside. Let us suppose a ship-builder or boat-builder: if he employ in any way in his business fifty men or women above fifteen years of age, he is put in the third class; if under fifty persons and above twenty-four, he is put in the fourth class; if under twenty-five and above twelve, he is put in the fifth class; if under thirteen and above two, he is put in the sixth class; if he employ less than three, or only himself, he is put in the seventh class. By looking at the tarif, it will be seen what his tax is to be in the different towns. They are not very particular about age, and count the children if they please in estimating his patent. The same rule of estimation is employed for most manu-

facturers, who employ many people ; as sail-makers, manufacturers of stockings, of cloth, of cotton goods, of guns, of umbrellas, of shoes, of hats, &c.

A manufacturer of wooden shoes (sabots), so generally in use among the lower orders in Belgium and Holland, is classed by the same rule. I may here be permitted to remark the cheapness of this covering for the foot. I asked at different places the prices ; a pair may be had for half a franc, if very neat (*risum teneatis*), 9d. or 10d. They last two or three years. One may laugh at the idea, but I heartily wish they were in use in many parts of our country, as they are much adapted for rustic labour in wet weather. A Dutch boor puts on his great wooden shoes in winter, and stuffs them with straw ; he can stand and work three or four hours in the marshes, and has his feet warm and dry. Leather would be to him a vast expense, and not do so well.

The poor cobbler is exempt from a patent ; match-makers are also exempt ; "*allumettes marchande exempt.*" I mention this to shew how minutely the law takes notice of

the different employments. A tailor or dress-maker is classed in the same manner as other manufacturers. "*Tailleurs d'habits pour homme ou pour femme, et soit homme ou femme 3^e classe, avec egard au nombre d'ouvriers.*"*

An innkeeper, who has twenty-five chambers or upwards furnished, is put in the second class ; if he has from fifteen to twenty-four, in the third class ; if from nine to fourteen, in the fourth class ; or if he has less than nine chambers, but has five servants, in the fourth ; if from six to eight, in the fifth ; or if less than six chambers, but if he has four servants, in the fifth class ; if from four to five, in the sixth ; or if less than four chambers, but if he has three servants, in the sixth class ; if below that number, in the seventh.

A manufacturer is not charged an extra patent for retailing goods of his own manufacture ; but if he sells goods not made

* Nomenclature Alphabetique de tous les metiers, &c. relative aux droits de patentes. Par J. Frond, chef de bureau a la direction de contributions directes de la Province de Limbourg.

by himself, he must pay extra for those goods, according to what is fixed on, as the annual amount of what he has sold. Thus, for instance, a watchmaker has his patent as such ; but if he sell any watches not made by himself, he pays for another patent.

Of the professions which are carried on by individuals in their own person, the class is subject to great latitude ; so that the favor or hatred of the officers may indulge or injure.

A physician, in paying for his annual patent, may be classed by the Government officers, according to his supposed income, in the third, fourth, or fifth class.

A surgeon, accoucheur, or apothecary, may be put in the third, fourth, or fifth, or as low as the sixth class.

The "*Officier de Santé*," who is employed by the police in cases of sudden death to inspect the body, and who must also regularly visit and ascertain the state of health of unfortunate women, is classed as any other surgeon.

An oculist is classed as other surgeons.

A dentist is classed in the same way.

Counsellors and barristers are exempt from the patent.

Journalists are put in the third class.

Attornies may be put in the third, fourth, or fifth class.

An army agent is put in the third or fourth class.

A brewer is put in the third class.

A baker and butcher in the fourth, fifth, or sixth.

A pastry cook in the fourth or fifth; if cook only, in the sixth.

A candle-maker in the fourth, fifth, or sixth.

A watchmaker in the fourth, fifth, or sixth.

*“Travaux Publics (entrepreneur de) n'est point au Tarif peut être placé au moins à la seconde classe.”**

“Voitures publiques par terre et par eau (entrepreneur de) n'est point au Tarif, doit appartenir au moins à la seconde classe.”

I quote these, to shew the discretionary power of the officers of Government.

The keepers of billiard-rooms are put in

* Nomenclature Alphabétique.

the fourth class. Masters and mistresses of boarding-schools are put in the fifth or sixth class. In the sixth class also are put green-grocers, keepers of bathing-houses, perruquiers, land-measurers, architects, and dancing-masters.

Teachers of every description, except of dancing, are favored in their patents, and pay only as persons of the seventh or lowest class. Players are put also in the lowest class. We find in the Tarif of the same class comprehended all the poor trades, barbers, embroiderers, porters, public criers, makers of wooden clocks, dealers in old clothes, boatmen, conductors of stage coaches, musicians, measurers of cloth, sellers of beer by retail, "*Bouchers de veaux nouveaux nés!*" Also smokers of herrings, journeymen tradesmen, not included in the list given in by their employers.

The post-masters are exempted, but in that quality only. By a decree published at the Hague, I observed the vehicles conveying the letters were also to pay no tolls, unless they carry more than one passenger.

Clerks employed in offices, and others

with fixed salaries, pay for their patent as follows :

Appointments of 300 guilders (about 27%) and under, 1 guilder 10 stivers.

Appointments of 300 to 600 — 3 guild.

600 to 900 — 6

900 to 1500 — 10

1500 to 2500 — 20

2500 to 3500 — 35

3500 (about 318%) and upwards — 50

For the lower salaries that is under one per cent. and is not $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in any case.

In calculating the patents charged on shopkeepers for the sale of goods, the Tarif is as follows :

For 1000 guilders or under, the patent is 1 guilder 10 stivers.

From 1000 guilders to 2000, 2 guilders 10 stivers.

From 2000 to 3000 — 4 guilders.

3000 to 5000 — 7

5000 to 8000 — 12

8000 to 11,000 — 18

11,000 to 15,000 — 27

15,000 to 20,000 — 40

From 20,000	to	27,000	—	55 guilders.
27,000	to	38,000	—	75
38,000	to	50,000	—	100
50,000	to	65,000	—	130
65,000	to	85,000	—	170
85,000	to	115,000	—	225
115,000	to	150,000	—	300
150,000	and upwards		—	340

For the lower sales, allowing the shopkeepers to have ten per cent. profit, his patent will subject him to an income-tax of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. For those who sell to a larger amount per annum, allowing ten per cent. to be gained, the patent amounts to about $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The shopkeeper is bound to keep an account, and make a return of the amount of his sales; and in the kingdom of France, by a refinement upon Imperial finance, the shopkeeper must now have his accompt-books made up on stamped paper, and he dares not use any other. All handbills, cards of address, &c. must be on stamped paper in France. If foreign financiers do not draw as much money from the pockets of the people as is done with us, it is evident it

is not for want of diligence and attention to their business. If more money be taken from us in England, it is done with at least some more regard to our feelings in the mode of levying it.

I am,

My dear Sir,

Yours, &c.

LETTER XIV.

MY DEAR SIR,

RESTING long in one place being no part of the business of a traveller, I accordingly took my departure in the treckschuyt for Leyden. I found four of our countrymen fellow passengers in the ruif. Travelling in this way is very pleasant. There is no fatigue whatever, and little cost, being not above three halfpence a mile. Society sufficient to amuse by observing them, or to furnish useful information, may generally be found, and there is abundant leisure and convenience to take notes. The canal exhibited the usual appearance of willow trees and windmills by the side, to pump the water from the fields as from a leaky ship, and grass land, cattle, and goats. The crops of hay were very abundant. The time passed away pleasantly, and we soon got to Leyden, which being the seat of a famous university, I resolved to stop at it.

It is elegantly built, and full of most beautiful canals, with rows of trees by the side. Some of the streets where there are no canals are very fine. Of the usual curiosities, the embalmed patriotic pigeons, employed to give intelligence to the Prince of Orange during the siege by the Spaniards; of the shop-board of John of Leyden; of the great common sewer, into which boats are sent to clean it out; and of the manufactures; you require from me no information. Your curiosity, like my own, points to the university, formerly so celebrated as a seat of learning.

The building itself is very humble, and by no means indicates a public institution, excepting in one part, which externally has the appearance of a church. In fact the lecture rooms are so bad, that the professors receive the students at their own houses.

It is satisfactory to learn, that it is intended by the present Government to build a new university, and I was gratified in seeing some little progress made, in the ground being partly cleared away for the purpose. The number of students at present may be about three hundred. Of these,

eighty study medicine ; one hundred study philosophy and languages ; and the rest divinity and the law. The students lodge in the town, and are under very little restriction from the professors, so that their own good sense, the influence of their parents, and the real or supposed necessity of being qualified, before obtaining a degree, are the principal stimuli for regular attendance and study. Of the philosophical students, the greater part enter about fourteen years of age, and continue five years, before they are qualified to take the lowest degree, which is that of Candidate. The other degree is that of Doctor. The students wear no academic dress ; but the professors wear gowns when teaching.

Twenty years ago, it was usual in Holland not to enter the university till a more advanced age. The same was the case also in Scotland. It is perhaps the pressure of the times which has induced parents and guardians to send youths as early as possible, that they may complete their education, and be able to shift for themselves. The system of education is intended to fill every active department of society with well educated

youth. In England, it is not usual to go to the university till a more advanced age, and to remain till twenty-three, twenty-four, or twenty-five. At that age it is too late to enter into the army, or into mercantile pursuits; or commence the peculiar education of a lawyer, or medical man. The English universities are therefore best calculated for men of fortune, or for men intended for the church.

At Leyden are four professors of theology; four of law; four of medicine; four of philosophy; and five of languages; making altogether twenty-one. The salary of a professor, independent of house, and fees from his pupils, is about 2800 guilders, or about 255*l.* per annum. As the highest church living at Amsterdam is 2400 guilders, of course the university is likely to be supplied with the first talents in the country. It is very distinctly shewn by Dr. Adam Smith, in his *Wealth of Nations*, that in countries where the church livings are not very lucrative, the universities are continually drawing the best talents from the church; whereas in countries where the church livings are very valuable, the church

is constantly drawing off the men of the first talents from the universities. At Utrecht and Groningen, the salary is 2200 guilders, or about 200*l.* a year. Making allowance for the value of money, the appointments are sufficiently ample. The fee for attending the lectures given three times a week is 30 guilders; for those given twice a week, 20 guilders; for those once a week, 10 guilders. It is the same in every branch of study. The session in all the Dutch colleges commences in September, and terminates about the end of June. There are ten days holidays at Christmas, and ten at Easter.

The people of the town of Leyden are civil and well disposed, and whatever vice may secretly and unknown exist, it dares not, as in Rotterdam, openly shew its face. The expense of living is reckoned moderate. The place is as much adapted for study as can well be conceived.

The great name of Boerhaave attracted in his time an immense concourse of students to Leyden, and there are still some who come from Britain. The professors of medicine at present enjoy a high reputation

for their lectures, but the difficulty of procuring subjects for dissection is a great loss to the students of anatomy, and gives to the medical school of Amsterdam a decided advantage. There is a hospital, capable of accommodating three hundred patients; maintained chiefly by voluntary subscription. The Clinical lectures are highly spoken of. Latin is the language employed by the professors. I went to see the Botanic Garden. It was quite full of plants, hot-houses, &c. It appeared to be in very good order, and many plants were shewn me, which I was taught to believe were very rare and valuable. The ground is too small, and I was pleased to see preparations making for enlarging it. The apparatus for experiments in natural philosophy is very deficient.

From the early age at which the students attend the university, great eminence cannot be expected. Enough of learning may however be acquired, to enable a man who is inclined, to make progress by his own exertions. The examinations for degrees are sufficiently strict, to excite fear of being rejected, and of course endeavours are

made to prepare. Public notice is stuck up of the examinations, and any one is at liberty to put questions. The professors, for their own credit, must not pass any one notoriously deficient, and some were rejected last June. In general, however, mercy predominates, and it is good policy not to be too severe. It might injure the good name of the university, if too many were found not to be qualified. The fee for the degree of candidate in Languages, Philosophy, or Theology, is 30 guilders; and for Doctor, 60 guilders more. For becoming candidate in Law or Medicine, the fee is 50 guilders; for Doctor, 100 guilders more.

Great complaints are made by our countrymen, who have had occasion to call in medical aid, of the ignorance of the continental practitioners. I can readily believe they are far from being equal to those of England, as the encouragement which they receive is greatly inferior. The Government in the Netherlands and in France has done its duty in establishing medical schools and professorships, in many of the great towns, and has also appointed commis-

sioners to examine the candidates, before they are permitted to practise as physicians, surgeons, or accoucheurs ; or to compound or vend medicines as apothecaries. These latter gentlemen strictly adhere to the original purpose of their profession, and do not, as with us, intrude into the duties of all the branches of the profession united. Notwithstanding this care of the Governments to procure skilful medical aid to the subjects, whilst so little is given by the patients, it is not to be expected that men of equally distinguished talents will embrace the profession, as with us, or that they will deem their future chance of emolument, sufficient inducement to undergo the long, expensive, and laborious education deemed necessary in England. At Amsterdam, the physician who comes in his carriage to visit a patient, receives as his fee only one guilder, about $21\frac{1}{2}d.$ sterling. It is nevertheless reckoned a lucrative profession. A surgeon who comes in his one-horse chaise receives about half the sum. At Brussels, a physician's fee is a two-franc piece, or $20d.$ In France, the fees are not higher. In the small country

towns, physicians are not usually established, and surgeons and apothecaries have the whole business to themselves. At Maestricht, a town containing eighteen thousand inhabitants, and which appears an elegant, active, and opulent place, the fee of a surgeon, as I was informed by a professional man there, to whose civilities in general I feel much indebted, is only 60 centimes, or about sixpence. There was no physician in the town; if there had, his fee would have been a franc. There were six surgeons in the town, and eighteen apothecaries, but several of the latter had next to no business at all. It is clear, after making every allowance for the difference of the value of money, that a medical man, to support his rank at all, must labour harder, and see more patients than in England, and consequently must have less time to study their cases, and to obtain professional improvement. And although rents are low, and the expenses of an equipage even at Amsterdam not a third of that at London, it is evident a physician cannot afford to make the same appearance as in England.

The situation of a professorship at a Royal Medical School is deemed an object of ambition ; and in Holland, when in an extremely dangerous case a rich family call in a professor, his fee is 5 or 6 guilders. In the Netherlands also, a professor expects a higher fee than another person. In many of the medical schools the professor's salary is not large, but the fees of his pupils yield him a good income. When an apothecary passes his examination before the Royal Commission, he is charged 600 francs, or about 25*l*. The expense is on the whole an advantage to him, as it prevents many from setting up in opposition.

As it is not likely I shall have any better opportunity, I shall conclude this letter, with what farther information I have to give of the education in Holland generally.

• In every village of any importance there is established, under the protection of Government, a primary school. According to the emolument, they require a master who has passed before the Commission, for the first, second, third, or fourth degree of qualification. There is a school-house with a garden, and a small salary afforded the

master ; and there is a fixed scale of fees for the different branches taught, that affords him his principal income. In some villages the master is encouraged to keep boarders, by a premium given him for every one he obtains. As boarders are only to be had by his fame as an able teacher, the inhabitants are re-imbursed by the benefits received by their own children, and by the money necessarily spent among them. The primary schools in Holland are in general excellent. They are spoken of in terms of very high approbation, in the report made to the French Government, by command of the Ex-emperor, by the inspector M. Cuvier. The masters must be of the established Church.

There are also occasionally schools set up by private individuals on their own account. In all the towns are establishments for instruction in the learned languages. The youth must be taught these before going to the Universities, or to the Athenæa. There are also schools for every branch of commercial education.

In the mercantile towns it is usual to have the children instructed in what are

called in Holland the four languages, which are the Dutch, English, French, and German. I have seen cards in which an address was given in all these four. In the *treckschuyt* from Leyden to Haarlem, I travelled with an Amsterdam gentleman and his family, whose little daughter, about eight, and little boy, about seven, understood English and French tolerably well, and returned answers in either of these languages. They were taught them at school, and kept in practice by their father and mother at home. I was informed by an English clergyman at Amsterdam, that there were about fifty natives of England in the town, teaching the language. The usual price of a lesson was a guilder. The lower orders in Holland, except some sailors, can return a stranger no other answer except "*Kanna verstand Mynheer;*" but all children of respectable parents are taught either French or English, and generally both. Perhaps in the sea-port towns English is more prevalent, and French in the others.

For the more complete diffusion of knowledge, and for the sake of those to whom,

on account of the distance or expense, it may be inconvenient to attend the universities of Leyden, Utrecht, and Groningen, there are established institutions, in which substantially the same instructions are given. These are called Athenæa. They are situated as follow :

For Gelderland	at	Harderwyck.
Holland	- -	Amsterdam.
Zealand	- -	Middlebourg.
Vriesland	- -	Franeker.
Overyssel	- -	Deventer.
Braband	- -	Breda.

At these seminaries of learning the professorships are less lucrative than at the universities, and of course eminent talent is likely to be drawn off. They have not the privilege of conferring degrees, and therefore the students who have been educated there, must go one year to finish at the universities, before obtaining the necessary and requisite degree before entering the church, or practising in the higher departments of law and medicine.

The minimum salary of a professor at one of the Athenæa, is fixed by Government at 1600 guilders. It is evident that

abundant provision is made for the instruction of the people. In general, the lower orders can read and write; and in the superior classes, good information will generally be found.

At Dort is a military school for officers of the army, and at Helvoetsluis a naval school. These are supported by Government. At Amsterdam there is also a naval school, maintained by private contributions. The boys are taught every branch of education useful for sailors; they are brought up hardily, and sleep in hammocks suspended from the roof of the room.

I am,

&c. &c.

LETTER XV.

MY DEAR SIR,

WHEN we hear people speak of the Dutch, it is generally to represent them as a dull, heavy, insipid people, solely occupied with the idea of gaining money, and incapable of social enjoyments. The picture is greatly overcharged in general. The Dutch are obliged to employ much of their time in business. They smoke, and think a great deal, and have little time during the day for any thing else. However, a man is born substantially the same in Holland, as in other countries ; and when the hours of business are over, he enters into amusement with as keen a relish.

Winter, when the canals are frozen over, and skaiting and sledge-racing go on, is the time to see a Dutch carnival. But even in summer, every great town has its annual kermess, as well as in Belgium. At all times, the great and never-failing amuse-

ments of every age and country, eating, drinking, and the intercourse of society, go on in Holland. The Dutch enjoy a public promenade and looking at one another, as well as other people. If the wetness of most of the provinces prevent hunting, there is plenty of fishing on the canals and lakes, and shooting of snipes and ducks. In some of the towns there are many houses, where they may sit in their drawing-room, and angle at their pleasure. Almost every house in all the towns, has got two mirrors fixed outside at the windows, where the people who sit in the inside, may see every thing going on in the streets. Their theatres are well supported. The pipe and bottle, either in the little summer-house, where they look at the canal, or by the fire in winter, is a perpetual and never-failing amusement. Cards, dice, draughts, chess, backgammon, are all in use. Riding into the country on horseback, or in a chaise, and sailing in a boat, afford healthful amusement. In the suburbs on Sundays and holidays, are tea-gardens, with the entertainments of music, dancing, swinging, skittles, and smoking.

There are abundance of coffee-houses, well attended of an evening, where they read the newspapers, smoke, drink beer, gin, rum, or wine, as suits every man's taste or circumstances. Billiards are very common in the coffee-houses. Not unfrequently there are musical performers who sing and play for such a trifle as the individuals choose to give to a handsome woman who goes round to collect. The music and dancing of the Spiel-houses are much resorted to, and the Musico's of a Sunday evening. Many of these amusements will not suit every man's taste, either in Holland or elsewhere, and some of them, in a moral point of view, are objectionable. I state them neither to praise nor to condemn, but only to shew, that Dutchmen can contrive recreation for themselves, and do indulge themselves in it, as well as nations that are thought to be more gay.

At Leyden and such inland towns, where a considerable number of people reside not engaged in business, may be seen much of what the severest ought to approve of, as real innocent enjoyment. There was one amusement I saw there, which we have not

got in England, which affords a most agreeable gentle exercise, and is particularly adapted for a cold moist climate, which often denies enjoyments out of doors. It is called *Kolven*, and I shall here describe it, as I saw it performed at a place of public entertainment, about a mile and a half without the Haarlem gate of Leyden, near to the country-house where the great Boerhaave used to reside.

There was a large room about seventy feet long, and upwards of twenty broad. A walk along the side was partitioned off with boards rising three feet high, and the rest of the room was laid with a whitish clay, and sand made very hard and smooth. About nine feet from each end of the room, in the exact middle, was a small pillar, the lower part of which was of brass. There were two stuffed balls, rather hard, of the size of twelve pound cannon balls, and clubs, the lower parts of which were brass. Two people play. The first commences at one end of the room, and drives his ball towards the pillar, at the other; the second player, commencing at the same place, does the same to his ball. He of the two, whose

ball has rolled nearest the pillar, has now the first blow. They strike their balls alternately, and the object is to make the ball first roll against one pillar, and then they drive it to the other end of the room, to try to make it strike the other pillar. He whose ball first does so, gains the first notch. The principle and mode of playing bears a resemblance to the Scotch game of Golf. The exercise is gentle, and the game seems easy, but it requires considerable dexterity. The landlord charges nothing for the room, as the parties usually play for a bottle of wine, and it affords great entertainment to the lookers on, who will also be doing something for the good of the house.

The popular amusements of a certain other country, in fighting and tormenting various animals, and fighting in pitched battles amongst themselves, are not practised by the mob in Holland. The old amusement of *snick-en-see*, or fighting with knives, is got completely out of use. The police are so strict, it is no longer practicable as an amusement. The Dutch boors, when provoked, will, in their passion, use

their knives. The English mode of the lower orders settling their disputes by boxing is much better, as very rarely any serious mischief is done, and both parties get generally well punished, as they richly deserve. The Dutch lower orders are a boorish, rough set, but they are fond of money, and a stranger may easily command any service he pleases.

Rough sensual amusements are of course their delight, but I do not know that they are much worse than the lower orders elsewhere. But it is time to leave this subject, and to go on with matters of more importance.

“ Sed tamen amoto quæramus seria ludo.”

At Leyden we see that body of water, for which the learned of that city and of Utrecht, preserve the classic appellation of the Rhine. It formerly lost itself in the sand at Catwyck, a little below Leyden, and filtrating through the soil, made a marsh of the surrounding lands. It was therefore resolved to make a proper channel or canal for this river, and to construct such sluices as would prevent the tide when it rose, from

forcing the water of the sea and river back upon the country. These every traveller ought to go to see. The canal is twenty feet broad, and the water passes through a triple row of sluices. That which is next the sea is made very solid, to resist the fury of the waves. It slopes at an angle of 40° , and the billows break against it. At high tide the sea keeps the sluice shut, but when the flood has gone out, the weight of the water of the river throws the sluice open, and it rushes out into the sea. The plan has fully answered every expectation.

I felt truly sorry on leaving Leyden, as I had found the people with whom I had occasion to mix, so very agreeable.

Betwixt that town and Haarlem, the canal runs through a fine grass country as before. It is a long distance, and the treckschuyt, having stopped about half way for a few minutes, I inquired the cause, and found it was for the master to go into the public house, and get fresh fuel in the fire-pan for the pipes. Not to have a convenience for lighting pipes and segars, would be an unpardonable offence. In most tobacconists' shops, (and almost every sixth

house has written up "*tobac en snuf te koop*,") there is a fire-pan on the shop counter, and matches ready to be used. It is so in all coffee houses, and public houses of every sort. Often enough you meet with the fire-pan on the table in private houses, and the lower orders still put the spitting dish on the table also. On calling on a clergyman at Amsterdam, a native of our own country, at about one o'clock, I found he had been smoking ever since breakfast. In Rome, they say, you must do as the people of Rome do. I know you will object to this in all matters of conscience, but in trivial matters you will not forbid it. Smoking is indeed no trivial matter in Holland, and to gain the good opinion of my Dutch friends, I smoked segars as much as I could. I verily believe there is good reason for the print, in which a young Dutchman is exhibited in bed on his marriage night, his bride by his side, his large pipe in his mouth with the lid fastened on, and the glass of Geneva on the shelf ready at hand.

The great boast of Haarlem is the invention of printing, which they claim on be-

half of their townsman Laurens Coster, about 1430. His statue is seen in the great square near the principal church. It rivals that of Erasmus at Rotterdam. I was much gratified in viewing the memorial of a man, whose invention is the greatest that ever blessed mankind.

The celebrated organ is in the great church, and most strangers are anxious to hear it. I should have liked it very well, but as the Dutchman demanded 10 guilders for playing, I suddenly embraced the musical creed of our learned and worthy Lord Chancellor, and preserved my money. I was fortified in this act of prudence, by knowing that I should have an opportunity of hearing, in the new church of Amsterdam, the organ there, which though of later erection, and therefore of less extended fame, is larger in size, and by many reckoned to be every way superior.

When about to enter the treckschuyt, the boatman made me at last comprehend by signs, that the whole ruif was taken. It was by an English gentleman and his wife. I had accordingly to go into the great cabin, where were about thirty people. There

was smoking enough, but not overmuch conversation. It was a fortunate circumstance for me, as my person became known to several, who afterwards in Amsterdam, more than once, when they saw I had lost my way, or was in want of a guide, &c. spoke to me, and did what was in their power to assist me. Half way to Amsterdam, we left the treckschuyt to walk to another, across the narrow isthmus that separates the sea of Haarlem from the gulf of Y. The waves were running high like the ocean. As we approached the great capital of Holland, the wind-mills near it seemed innumerable. I desired the porter to take my portmanteau to the "*Wapen van Amsterdam*,"* but he and two others assured me it was quite full, for they had been there but an hour before, and no

* "*Wapen van Amsterdam*," signifies arms of Amsterdam. This is one instance of many, in which the Dutch nearly resembles the English. I could almost always know what was sold in a shop, by the words over the door. Persons who desire information on this subject, I beg to refer to Sewel's *Key to the Dutch Language*, edited and improved by Mr. Low, one of the ministers of the Scotch church of Amsterdam.

chamber was to be had. I insisted on his going to it, and found as I expected I should, his assertion was only a *ruse de guerre*, to take me to an hotel, which probably rewarded such services.

In the hotel, I found many of our countrymen. Most of them were men of business. The immense forest of masts in the harbour, the number of barges moving about on the canals, the hundreds of windmills in every direction at work on the walls and in the suburbs, demonstrated, in spite of the complaints you heard, that business was going on. I shall here conclude this letter and my next shall be devoted to the important subject of Ecclesiastical polity, and religious sects in Holland.

I am,

&c. &c.

LETTER XVI.

MY DEAR SIR,

THE affairs of religion are of all others the most important, inasmuch as eternity far transcends the little interests of short and fleeting time.

Holland, having long enjoyed a free toleration, and having, through commerce, connection with all the world, most sects of religion have been founded there. The Presbyterian church was alone supported by Government. It still retains the old parish churches, and the exclusive privilege of having bells, and its ministers receive from Government a larger salary than those of any other sect. Laymen enjoy equal privileges whatever sect they belong to.

The first Sunday I was in Amsterdam, I went, in the afternoon, to the new church, to see the manner of worship amongst the Dutch, and to hear the great organ.

Through the error of the guide, I was a little too late, and the worship had begun. The minister was got to the sermon. He was a young man of a very respectable appearance; he wore no gown, but he had bands, and a piece of black silk fastened to his hair behind, which hung down his back. His delivery was extempore, and he was warm and animated in his manner. At the end of every division he made a short pause, which gave the people time to move a little in their seats, and adjust themselves to listen attentively to the next. The sermon lasted about an hour. Towards the conclusion the preacher was vehement. The people sat with their hats on, but notwithstanding the maxim of doing as they do at Rome, I felt a reluctance to comply, and did not. It is still the custom to speak extempore, but short notes are usually laid within the Bible.

After the sermon, the minister read from a printed book, the prayers for baptism, and a minister below performed the ceremony. Meanwhile the elders went round to collect money. He then uttered an extempore prayer, at which the people took off their

hats, and then read the psalm or hymn. Presently the loud organ opened its tremendous voice. It bellowed louder than thunder, through the vast church. It seemed to me like nothing earthly, but to be the voice of the trumpet of the great archangel which should call the dead to rise.

The service of the two sacraments of the Lord's Supper and Baptism, are the only fixed Liturgy in the Dutch church. It was made with a view to preserve orthodoxy of sentiment on these two important points. Every clergyman may compose and read his ordinary prayers, if he please, and it is not unusual. One of the ministers of the Scotch Kirk at Amsterdam does so.

The Dutch church is upon a respectable footing, though not very opulent. Every clergyman I saw was well dressed, and appeared well fed. It was not so along the Rhine and in France. In the remote villages where little rank need be kept up, and every thing is very cheap, the clergyman has a house, garden, and frequently a glebe, with 600 or 700 guilders annual salary. In the towns, according to the expence of living, a higher salary is given,

and 2400 guilders is the first living in Amsterdam. The clergy formerly had lands, and funds in the Bank. These the universal plunderers, the French, took from them. They are now paid by Government. This gives an immense influence to the King, which is still further increased by his having the whole patronage, or presentation to every living throughout the country. In the appointment, the recommendation of the principal parishioners is chiefly considered, and whilst there is a King, who, like the present, does all in his power to make the people feel satisfied, it will continue to be so. The established clergy are about 1600 in number.

The Scotch churches in Holland, which hold exactly the same tenets, and have the same Presbyterian form of worship and government, are incorporated with the Dutch. The ministers are paid by the King, and they sit in the same Ecclesiastical Courts. Few now remain, the long war having stopped the supply from Scotland to keep them up. The congregations at Leyden, at Dort, and at the Hague, are broken up. There is one at Amsterdam

which has two ministers*. There is one at Rotterdam, and a second congregation, which being zealously Anti-Calvinistic, is not connected with the church of Holland. The congregations at Flushing and at Middleburg have a minister between them. He is a Dutchman, and officiates in his mother tongue. The Scotch minister died in the time of the war, and another could not be got over. The people are kept together by national feelings, and by the psalmody of their dear native land.

There is an English episcopal church at Rotterdam, and another at the Hague. They are not supported by the King of Holland.

The expense of maintaining the buildings of the churches is now thrown upon the congregations. It is on that account that a collection is made after the sermon.

The Calvinistic doctrines of predestination, election, free-grace, &c. are laid

* It is usually called by the Dutch the English church. On the continent, all persons from the British Islands are called English, without exception, both by the natives and by themselves.

down in the creed signed by the ministers on receiving orders in the church. These tenets are still rigidly maintained by a great many ministers; and none dare openly and directly oppose them. Their very zealous advocates would attack, with determined energy, an open adversary, in their presbyteries, in their provincial synods, or in the great national ecclesiastical assembly at its meeting at Dort. The letter of the creed would render it a troublesome matter to withstand them. The clergymen, therefore, who disbelieve these tenets, wean the people from them, by omitting to teach them, and preach instead practical moral duties. The *moderate party*, as such would be called in Scotland, is reckoned to be the majority. The University of Utrecht is supposed to favor that mode of thinking. Leyden supports the ancient form of orthodoxy.

The Israelites enjoy the full privileges of citizens. In Amsterdam are several Jewish synagogues, and the forms of worship of most sects of Christianity. There is at present no Greek church, but there is one of the Armenian nation, supported by rich

merchants of that country. When I was at Amsterdam, there was no minister, one having lately died, but another was soon expected to arrive.

In the treatment of Dissenters, who are very numerous in Holland, the present Government adopts the wise policy, begun, but not persevered in, by the French. All the clergy receive more or less salary. With all due deference to those who differ, I beg leave to offer my judgment, that this is a much more effectual way of managing them, as well as more equitable, than that adopted in a neighbouring Protestant State, which has had recourse to penalties and disqualifications.

The Catholic churches are in general very small, but are between three and four hundred in number. Independently of other reasons, it is necessary on account of Belgium to attach their clergy to the present family, and a salary is the pleasantest method. In return, they display their loyalty, and observe the public days appointed on extraordinary occasions for religion. Many of the Catholics are Janse-
nists.

James Arminius was a native of Oude-water, and was appointed to the theological chair of Leyden, 1603. From him arose the Arminians, or Remonstrants, whose tenets are in opposition to those of Calvin. They were favored by Barneveldt, and those in opposition to the Stadtholder. The parties were accordingly political as well as theological, and regarded each other with mutual fury. In the National Synod, held at Dort, which was opened November 13th, 1618, and closed May 9th, 1619, the tenets of Arminius were condemned and proscribed. The Stadtholder, from political motives, supported the decrees of the Synod, banishing or imprisoning the more obstinate of the antagonists. Barneveldt was put to death, May 12th, 1619, and the learned Hugo Grotius was sent a prisoner to Loevesteen, from whence he escaped by the stratagem of an affectionate wife.

Persecution did not annihilate these religious opinions. The Remonstrants are less numerous now than formerly; as in most places religious worship may be attended without hearing any thing of the

tenets of Calvin, and it is no longer necessary to form separate communions. There are still from forty to fifty ministers of this sect.

The Lutherans, who adopt doctrines and church government not much unlike that of the Church of England, have from fifty to sixty preachers.

The French Protestant churches are not incorporated with the Dutch, although Presbyterian. They are about thirty, and form a Synod of their own.

The present Anabaptists differ exceedingly from the followers of John of Leyden. They are called Mennonists, from Menno Simons, their founder. One of the leading features of his doctrines, was an abhorrence of war, and of all display of earthly grandeur. They baptise persons only who are come of age, but they do not adopt the cold and uncomfortable plan of plunging the whole body in water, like their brethren in England; but reckon sprinkling quite sufficient. There are some communities who do so, but not many. Many opulent men belong to this sect. Their congregations are about a hundred. Their ministers do

not follow secular employments, as is not unusual with their brethren in England.

The Universities are equally open to all sects. They may educate their clergy where they please, and take their own method of ascertaining their theological and moral qualifications, and of conferring Holy Orders.

With so many churches, and so many to teach religion and good morals, one has a right to expect that the Dutch should be distinguished as a singularly virtuous people. With the exception of the great sea-port towns, there is a tolerable external decency, and a suppression of all public vice, but I do not know that in general they are better than others. The dissoluteness of Rotterdam and Amsterdam is very great. Besides frequenting the improper places I have in a former letter spoken of, it is usual after dinner of a Sunday, to go out to the suburbs. Music and dancing, smoking and drinking, go on the whole afternoon. Many of the shops are open, and if not the shutters, at least the doors; and if business be not done, it is more for want of buyers than of sellers. Late in the evening are opened

in the towns public rooms for music, dancing, and refreshments. Of these the most celebrated is the Rondeel, at Amsterdam. It is a large room, pretty well lighted up, with a court-yard behind, planted with trees, and lighted with lamps. About a shilling a head admission money is paid at the door. Respectable men and their families attend, and do not seem to feel any repugnance in joining in the dance with females whose society might be supposed no acquisition. It is no stain either on a man's morals or piety to be present.

Such things are not exactly what we would expect from Calvinists and Presbyterians. If our first James had had such subjects in England and Scotland, his book of Sunday sports would have been received as a kind, praise-worthy production. The Dutch see no harm in these things, and therefore their practice does not imply, as it would with us, an absence of moral principle. I shall leave them in your hands, who are better able to judge them.

“ I speak not to disprove what Brutus spoke,

“ But here I am to speak what I do know.”

In dismissing this subject, it is but justice to say of Holland, that there is no country excepting our own, in which are so many charitable institutions, so great exertions to relieve every species of distress, and where it seems to be so much the earnest wish of all classes of society, to promote universal happiness and comfort.

I am,

My dear Sir,

&c. &c.

LETTER XVII.

MY DEAR SIR,

I BELIEVE there was little which I saw at Amsterdam, with which you are not already pretty well acquainted. I shall not therefore enter into any description, but go forward to Utrecht.

The canal to that city is reckoned the pleasantest in Holland. There were three ruifs in the *treckschuyt*, beside the common cabin. Two of the ruifs were taken by private parties, which I had no occasion to regret, as I found the society in the other sufficiently agreeable. There were three ladies, one of whom spoke French very well; a gentleman, who was a harmless, good-natured man, and smoked segars the whole way, and another, a gentleman of Nimeguen who was very polite and intelligent, and had travelled in different parts of the globe. We met several *treckschuyts* by the way, some with goods, but most with

passengers. Facing the canal are built the elegant country houses of the Dutch merchants, with the neat gardens, and not unfrequently a little summer-house close by the side of the water. These summer-houses are very common near every town; and every one has some inscription, signifying, "My Delight," "Country Delight," "Pleasant Prospect," "Just in the Country," or some other appropriate idea. Towards evening in the summer, the Dutch gentlemen sit down there to their pipe and bottle, and they politely exchange salutations with the passengers going past, by moving their hats.

About nine or ten miles from Amsterdam, we stopped to renew the fire-pans for the pipes, and most of the passengers went to get refreshments. Bread, butter, and cheese were all the house afforded, or the passengers seemed to demand. With these it was necessary to be satisfied till we got to Nieuwersluis. We soon arrived at that village. It is fortified as a defence to the approach to Amsterdam, and by means of sluices, water might be let in, which would annoy an invader. For ourselves, our ra-

capacity extended no farther than to get what we were willing honestly to pay for. We obtained beef, bread, salt and plates, with wine and cherries, which we took on board, and contrived to make a comfortable repast.

It was almost dark when we got to Utrecht. For a considerable way, the houses approaching close to the side of the canal, and leaving only a narrow foot-path, it is necessary to dismiss the horse, and an old woman takes his place. We met a bargewith merchandize coming away, drawn by two old women, and soon after another drawn by an old man and a woman together, which we pointed out to the ladies, as a singularly excellent emblem of matrimony. I endeavoured to shew the impropriety of subjecting the female sex to such drudgery, but my fellow passengers seemed to think that there was no harm in allowing women to drag the barges, and carry luggage to the hotels if they chose it, and that it would be wrong to prevent them earning money in any way they liked themselves.

For the first time in Holland, I saw

the smallest natural elevation of ground. Utrecht is built on what we may perhaps here venture to call a hill. The canal is cut through and the sides are steep.

I agreed to put up at the same hotel with the Nimeguen gentleman, and we had, after leaving the *treckschuyt*, to traverse the whole length of the city, which was at least half an hour, and pass through the Stelsteger gate, and across the Rhine, which there runs under the foot of the walls, to the *Engel*, which is their word for angel. We found it a good house, and the landlord, his wife, and two of the servants, spoke French.

I waited for supper, until my Nimeguen friend should come back from a visit into the city. At ten o'clock the *poord-klok* was rung, and the gate was shut by the soldiers. I was afraid he would not get back. It was however opened again to him on paying two-pence to the guard.

The restless impatience which I always feel on coming to a new town, urged me next morning from my bed at an early hour. I went into the town, and got to

the ancient cathedral. The view from the top is celebrated as the most extensive in Europe.

The workmen were employed in repairs. The first of them I spoke to understood French, and immediately conducted me to the master of the tower, whose apartments are perhaps a curiosity, from their vast elevation in the air. He expressed his gratitude to the man, by a bountiful morning draught of gin, and proceeded, after shewing his own apartments, to conduct me on high. The carillons seemed not inferior to those of the other towns in Holland and Belgium. The labor and fatigue of climbing up is fully rewarded. The neat, genteel town, with its gardens, ramparts, and trees, the course of the Rhine, the grass lands on the one side, and the more diversified corn lands on the other, form the nearer part of the picture. But afar off are pointed out Amersfort, the Zuyder Sea, Naerden, Amsterdam thirty miles off, the lake of Haarlem, Leyden, and Gouda. The course of the Leck, a main branch of the Rhine, may also be traced. Near the village of Zeist is to be seen the vast

mound raised by Marmont, as a monument to the glory of the French Emperor. The present Government has not shewn the weak jealousy of having it removed. They have acted wisely. It reminds the Dutch of a foreign domination, and they will become much altered from what they are at present, if such a recollection do not preserve in their breasts a resolution to oppose the renewal of a tyranny, which they found so fatal to their prosperity.

An English gentleman had been up to the top of this tower, a few days before. Being almost dizzy from the elevation, and having a lively idea in his mind of the repairs going on, he hurried down as fast as he could, lest it should fall, sagely remarking afterwards, that such an occurrence must take place one day, and he saw no reason why it might not be with such a sinner as himself.

Like the other towns, Utrecht is divided in theological sentiments. For religious instruction to a population of 32,000, there are seven established churches, one Mennonist church, one Jewish synagogue, eleven Catholic churches, two of which are

Jansenist. The Catholic places of worship are, as usual in Holland, but small; as the income necessary for an unmarried clergyman may be raised by few people.

The University is situated near the Cathedral. The buildings are not such as to indicate any thing of the sort. The number of students is less than at Leyden. The system of education as prescribed by royal authority is the same. The annexed paper, which is a copy of that publicly placarded, will fully exhibit the whole that is to be taught the next session, and as the other Universities are under the same regulations, nearly the same studies are followed at them also. You will see, that if the Professors are at all qualified for what they undertake, an abundant provision is made for affording most ample instruction in languages, philosophy, divinity, law, and physic. There is an Hospital, and a small Botanic Garden.

The walks on the ramparts, and outside of the town, are delightful. After being so long on a dead flat, I felt the little elevation as if it had exalted me to breathe "empyrean air." Were I to choose a resi-

dence in Holland, Leyden and Utrecht would be the candidates for favor, and there is great probability the latter would have the preference.

My truly agreeable Dutch friend engaged of the landlord for himself and me, a cabriolet to take us to Nimeguen. The expense was eighteen guilders, and we gave each a guilder to the driver, and had to pay a guilder and something more for crossing the flying bridge over the Leck. The distance may be about forty-two miles. The road was excellent, although it was not paved, and we had no tolls to pay. They are not usual in Holland. We had bid farewell to canals and level green meadows, and had now a country varying into gentle rising grounds, and covered with the finest crops of wheat, buckwheat, barley, oats, and clover. At the end of six miles we drove into a large barn, with a great door at each end, by the road side, that the driver might refresh the horses. He gave them water, and some large slices of bread from a great loaf he brought with him for the purpose. Holland is a blessed country for horses. At every six miles on the roads,

there is a house like this to shelter the horses in bad weather, and no temptation from an impatient and unmerciful traveller, will induce the driver to abridge the time for their refreshment. We joined company at this place, with an officer and his family, in a carriage and four, who were proceeding to the garrison at Nimeguen. We always met at every baiting place on the road. We proceeded a few miles, when the road made a sudden turn, and we ascended a high bank. All at once the vast and mighty river the Leck, in all its desolating glory, burst upon the view. This great branch of the Rhine overspread all the plain. Here and there an island appeared. The pollard willow trees, usually about twelve or fifteen feet high, here seemed struggling like a drowning man, to keep their heads above water. Here and there the top branches of the bushes could barely be seen. The river had risen above the inner dyke, and had now drowned all the country, as far as the second or outer dyke. It was on the top of this dyke our road now lay for some miles to the ferry. Our heads were about twenty-five or thirty

feet above the country on the left hand. We could trace at a distance in the water, by means of trees, the place where the inner dyke was, and thus we could distinguish the usual breadth of the river. At the ferry, the flying bridge received our cabriolet, and we waited for the officer's carriage, and a peasant's waggon. We moved across, and about one hundred storks on the bank looked at us, equally indifferent and unconcerned about us, and the desolations the river had occasioned. We obtained refreshments at the neighbouring public house, where we all lighted our segars, and drove across the country to the town of Tiel on the banks of the Waal; the other great branch of the Rhine.

This is a beautiful little town of the sixth rank, in a delightful and fertile neighbourhood. It had the honor in 1528, to withstand a siege from the Emperor Charles V. What was of more importance at the time to us, we found an excellent dinner on the table at the inn, good wine, strawberries, and cherries. Two gentlemen at table spoke tolerable English. The charge for dinner, dessert, and half a bottle of wine,

was a guilder and five stivers, or about 2s. 3d.

Our road now, all the way to Nimeguen, lay along the top of the great outer dyke. The same scene of grandeur appeared as before, and in its magnificence almost made us forget the ruin it had occasioned. Our feelings of commiseration were, however, once or twice strongly excited, on seeing some peasants proceeding in boats through the water to their houses, which were situated on a little elevation, and also defended by a dyke which they had thrown up. On seeing the little boys fishing, where formerly they had watched their cattle, I thought of Ovid's description of the flood, and Horace's ode on the overflowing of the Tiber.

“ Piscium et summâ genus hæsit ulmo,
Nota quæ sedes fuerat columbis,
Et superjecto pavidæ natârunt,
Æquore damæ.”

The day was very fine. It was a highly cultivated and richly adorned country on the left, which lay beneath us. The tobacco gardens, so valuable to the peasants, which supply part of the home production

of Holland and bring wealth from neighbouring nations, lay near the dyke. There too the water accumulated from the rains occasionally flooded the ground. The pear trees in the gardens, in order to make the most of the ground, were made to rise up, in the shape and appearance of poplars.

It was seven o'clock in the evening when we stopped to refresh the horses, at three miles from Nimeguen. The sun shone out most joyfully on the ocean of waters that lay between us and the town. The red tower of the powder magazine, the Bellevue overhanging the river, the castle and the tiled roofs of the houses rising up the steep side of the hill, all reflected back to us the beams of descending day. We quickly got on till we came opposite the town, where we dismissed the carriage, and an old woman took charge of our baggage. We had to cross by a small flying bridge, to a fixed part of the bridge resting upon five or six barges. A large flying bridge swings between this fixed part, and the opposite bank. There are swivels upon the bridge to be fired in honor of any great man who passes, or in honor of any vain man who

will pay for the compliment. About eighty passengers, with carriages and horses, came over together; a band of strolling musicians played the national airs of the country, and we were in expectation of finishing with pleasure, a day which had hitherto been so delightful. No man, said Solon to Croesus, ought to be called happy before his death. A tremendous cloud of rain now burst upon us, and ran in torrents through the streets, as we made our way to the hotel. I there parted with my Dutch friend, and now remember him as one of the many instances on my journey, in which I have found, from acquaintance casually commenced, all the civilities and politeness which I could have obtained from old friendship, or the warmest introductory recommendation. How much does a little travelling from home abate prejudices, expand the heart, and teach us to love all mankind!

Nimeguen is a town of the fourth rank, and contains about 12,000 people. The streets are narrow, and appear to disadvantage, after seeing the neat elegance of the province of Holland. There are beautiful

walks under the shade of trees, within the walls. In the midst of these walks are the ruins of a little castle, Valkenof, supposed to have been built by the Emperor Charlemagne. From the bank near to that place, and from the Bellevue, the eye looks down upon the river far below, and marks its mighty course, and wanders over a wide extent of country subjected to its view. It is one of those prospects which the eye can never be wearied in beholding. I feel delighted now on recalling it to my imagination, and were it only thirty miles off, I should soon set out to behold it again.

But how many places are we compelled in travelling to leave with regret? Kind Nature has scattered her bounties with a liberal hand, and has put comfort and happiness in the reach of all her children. I pity the traveller, who comes complaining the whole way, and finds the whole land barren from Dan to Beersheba. There must be something wrong in that man's mind. He who loves his fellow kind, who can be satisfied with their satisfaction, and delighted with their delights, will every where find happiness burst upon him at every

view. As for myself, from London to Nimeguen, I have not had one unhappy hour ; and if I were to say not one unhappy moment, I can recal nothing to mind at present, to lead me to doubt of its truth.

Nimeguen is the frontier town, strongly fortified with two walls and ditches, and has, in addition, far-extending outworks. Here then, I must bid farewell to the Dutch. They are a people I shall recollect with respect. They have their faults, and prominent faults too, but they have also their good qualities, which I must regard. Patient, laborious, steady, persevering with enterprize, where experience has shewn the probability or certainty of success, cautious to avoid hazardous speculations, Dutchmen pursue a sure and profitable course of life. Social also, when the hours of business are past, they know how to render life agreeable by amusement and pleasure.

There are many who speak evil of them, but I have experienced no cause so to do. I therefore leave them with the earnest wishes of my heart for their lasting prosperity and happiness.

I doubt not, but you and every good man will sympathise in my feelings, and now that the din of war is over, and peace again permits the nations to repose, you will heartily pray, that men in every country, and in every clime, of every religion, and of every colour, may feel that they are brothers, and as such, cherish for each other sentiments of kindness and good-will.

I am,

&c.

SERIES LECTIONUM,
IN ACADEMIA RHENO-TRAIECTINA,

*A Die XVII. m. Septembris Anni MDCCCXVI, usque ad Férias aestivas
Anni MDCCCXVII,*

A PROFESSORIBUS DIVERSARUM FACULTATUM, ET A CHIRUR-
GICAE ATQUE OBSTETRICIAE ARTIS LECTORE ACADEMICO

HABENDARUM.

In FACULTATE THEOLOGICA, docebunt

Theologiam naturalem G. VAN OORDT, d. lunae et iovis, h. XI.

Historiam ecclesiasticam D. HUISMAN, quater per diem hebdomadem, h. III.

Fundamenta interpretationis N. T. I. HERINGA, E. F. diebus martis, iovis et veneris, h. XII.

Exegeticas lectiones in Librum Jobi habebit I. H. PAREAU, d. lunae, martis et jovis, h. I.

Epistolam D. Pauli ad Romanos interpretabitur H. ROYAARDS, d. mercurii, h. XII.

Actorum Apost. priorem partem interpretabitur I. HERINGA, E. F. diebus lunae et iovis, h. VIII. *Parabolas Domini nostri* I. C. eadem hora, diebus martis et veneris.

Primum quidem *universa quaedam Capita*, quibus *doctrina religionis Christianae exponatur, illustretur, aut firmetur*, (*de algemeene leer van den Christelijken Gadsdienst*) interpretabitur, dein autem *Theologiam Dogmaticam* docebit H. ROYAARDS, diebus lunae, martis, jovis et veneris, h. IX.

Collocationibus de Locis theologicis vacabunt I. HE-

RINGA, E. F. d. iovis, horis vespert. a VII. ad IX. et G. VAN OORDT, die mercurii, horis vespertinis a VII. ad IX.

Christianam morum disciplinam docebit G. VAN OORDT, d. lunae, martis, iovis et veneris, h. X.

Praecepta homiletica tradet H. ROYAARDS, d. mercurii, h. X.

Exercitationes Oratorias Sacras moderabitur I. HERINGA, E. F. die saturni, h. I.

Officia nuntiorum Euangelii exponet H. ROYAARDS, d. mercurii, hora IX.

Puerorum doctrinae Christianae initiis erudiendorum exercitationem instituent I. HERINGA, E. F. die martis, hora XI. et G. VAN OORDT, die mercurii, hora XI. alternis hebdomadibus.

Orationibus Sacris pronunciandis praeerunt H. ROYAARDS, d. martis, h. XII. I. HERINGA, E. F. die lunae, hora XII. et G. VAN OORDT, die mercurii, hora XI.

Disputandi exercitationibus praeerunt H. ROYAARDS et I. H. PAREAU, d. veneris, h. I. alternis hebdomadibus; I. HERINGA, E. F. die saturni, privatim h. VIII. publice die mercurii, hora I. et G. VAN OORDT, publice eadem die ac hora: hi etiam alternis hebdomadibus.

Denique S. RAVIUS, licet propter aetatem rude sit donatus, iis tamen non deërit, quos consilio suo iuvare poterit.

In FACULTATE IURIDICA, docebunt

Institutiones, Westenbergio duce, H. ARNTZENIUS, quater per dierum hebdomadem, h. X.

Pandectas, eodem duce, H. ARNTZENIUS, sexies per dierum hebdomadem, h. IX.

Ius naturae C. W. DE RHOER, diebus lunae, martis, iovis et veneris, h. XI.

Ius gentium et publicum C. W. DE RHOER, iisdem diebus, hora I.

Ius Criminum et poenarum C. W. DE RHOER, diebus mercurii et saturni, hora XI., vel alia, auditoribus forte magis commoda.

Ius Belgicum I. R. DE BRUEYS, diebus lunae, martis, iovis et veneris, hora XII.

Encyclopaediam et Methodologiam Juris I. R. DE BRUEYS, diebus mercurii et saturni ead. hora.

Historiam jurisprudentiae Romanae H. ARNTZENIUS, diebus mercurii et saturni, hora X.

Disputandi exercitationibus alternatim praeerunt H. ARNTZENIUS et I. R. DE BRUEYS.

In FACULTATE MEDICA, docebunt

Anatomiam B. F. SUERMAN, quater per dierum hebdomadem, h. IV.

Physiologiam I. BLEULAND, quater, h. VIII.

Pathologiam B. F. SUERMAN, quater, h. IX.

Praxin medicam D. DYLIUS, die lunae, martis, mercurii et iovis, horâ XII.

Pharmaciam, secundum Pharmacopoeam Batavam, vernaculo sermone, N. C. DE FREMERY, diebus martis et veneris, h. III.

Materiem Medicam, sive Historiam Remediorum D. DYLIUS, enarrabit diebus mercurii et veneris, horâ I.

Institutionibus Clinicis vacabit D. DYLIUS, singulis diebus, Nosocomio Academico hunc in finem extracto et aperto.

Chirurgiam B. F. SUERMAN, quater per dierum hebdomadem, h. X.

Institutioni clinicae in arte chirurgica, quovis die, vacabit B. F. SUERMAN.

Artem obstetriciam theoreticam et practicam I. BLEU-
LAND, ter quavis hebdomade, h. I.

Diateticam, Medicinam politicam et forensem N. C. DE
FREMERY, diebus mercurii et saturni, h. VIII.

Denique M. VAN GEUNS, quamvis solito docendi
et agendi officio academico suo, regia auctoritate, hono-
rifice solutus iam sit, integra tamen manente docendi
facultate sua, hac quidem, quantum aetas et valetudo
sinent, lubens adhuc utetur, ut, exponendis partibus ad
Iamatologiam facientibus, sive *Pathologiae*, sive *Diaete-
ticae* ac *Materiae medicae*, Studiosorum utilitati nostro-
rum inservire totus nondum desinat.

IN FACULTATE MATHESEOS ET PHILOSO-
PHIAE NATURALIS, docebunt

Elementa Matheseos I. F. L. SCHRÖDER, d. lunae,
martis, iovis et veneris, h. VIII.

*Trigonometriam rectilineam et sphaericam, ad elementa
Astronomiae atque Geographiae mathematicae adhibitam
atque applicatam* I. F. L. SCHRÖDER, iisdem d. h. XI.

Hydraulicam et Hydrotechnicam I. F. L. SCHRÖDER,
iisdem d. h. IV.

Calculus Integrale I. F. L. SCHRÖDER, diebus
lunae et martis, h. I.

Physicam experimentalem G. MOLL, d. lunae, martis,
iovis et veneris, h. I.

Physicam mathematicam I. F. L. SCHRÖDER, die-
bus iovis et veneris, h. I.

Astronomiae primas notitias G. MOLL, d. lunae, mar-
tis, iovis et veneris, h. IX.

Astronomiam theoreticam et practicam G. MOLL, iisd.
d. h. III.

Chemiam generalem et applicatam N. C. DE FRE-
MERY, iisdem d. h. XI.

Botanica et Physiologia plantarum I. KOPS, d. lunae, martis et iovis, h. X.

Zoologiam, cum Anatomie comparata coniunctam, N. C. DE FREMERY, diebus lunae, martis, iovis et veneris, h. XII.

Mineralogiam N. C. DE FREMERY, bis per diem hebdomadem, hora auditoribus commoda.

Oeconomiam ruralem I. KOPS, d. lunae, martis, iovis et veneris, hora VIII.

IN FACULTATE PHILOSOPHIAE THEORETICAE ET LITERARUM HUMANIORUM, docebunt

Logicum I. T. ROSSYN, *Emeritus*, d. lunae et iovis, h. I.

Metaphysicam I. T. ROSSYN, *Emeritus*, d. lunae, martis, iovis et veneris, h. X.

Moralia vitae felicitis praecepta D. HUISMAN, d. lunae et mercurii, h. VIII.

Litteras Latinas A. VAN GOUDOEVER, d. lunae, martis, iovis et veneris, h. XI.

Antiquitatem Romanam A. VAN GOUDOEVER, d. mercurii et saturni, h. IX.

Historiam Literariam Scriptorum Latinorum A. VAN GOUDOEVER, d. mercurii et saturni, h. XII.

Exercitationes Oratorias moderabitur A. VAN GOUDOEVER, d. saturni, h. I.

Litteras Graecas Ph. G. VAN HEUSDE, interpretando cum Dialogos Luciani, die lunae et iovis, hora X: tum Aristophanis Plutum et Homeri Odyseam, die martis et veneris, hora X.

Antiquitatem Graecam Ph. G. VAN HEUSDE, d. mercurii et saturni, h. X.

Litteras Hebraicas docebit I. H. PAREAU, ita ut *Grammaticam* exponat d. lunae et iovis h. IX. eademque

hora, d. martis et veneris, quaedam tractet capita e priore *Samuelis* libro.

Literas Arabicas I. H. PAREAU, d. lunae et iovis, h. XI.

Literas Chaldaicas et Syriacas I. H. PAREAU, d. martis et veneris, h. XI.

Antiquitatem Hebraicam I. H. PAREAU, d. lunae, martis, iovis et veneris, h. IV.

Historiam universam Ph. G. VAN HEUSDE, d. lunae, martis, iovis et veneris, h. XII.

Historiam politicam et literariam gentium Europaeorum recentiorum Ph. G. VAN HEUSDE, die mercurii et saturni, hora XI.

Historiam Patriae A. SIMONS, d. mercurii et saturni, h. VIII.

Literas Belgic. et Eloquentiam A. SIMONS, d. martis, iovis et veneris, h. III. et d. iovis, h. IX.

Historiam Poës. Belgic. A. SIMONS, diebus et horâ, auditoribus commodis.

Disputandi exercitationibus praeerit, alternis hebdomadibus, die saturni, hora I. Ph. G. VAN HEUSDE.

P H. F. HEYLIGERS.

Artem obstetriciam theoreticam et practicam docebit ter per dierum hebdomadem, hora XII.

Morbos ossium bis per dierum hebdomadem, diebus et horis deinceps indicandis.

Operationes chirurgicas in cadavere humano publice demonstrabit tempore hyemali, earumque encheiresium rationem vernaculo sermone exponet.

Diebus Mercurii et Saturni Bibliotheca Academica, in Aede D. Johannis, tempestate aestiva ab hora III in V, hyemali vero ab hora II in IV unicuique patebit.

LETTER XVIII.

MY DEAR SIR,

OF personal adventures at Nimeguen I have nothing to relate. The good people at the hotel spoke only Dutch, of which I understood but very few words. By signs however, and the assistance of such gentlemen as happened to come in, I got every thing I wanted.

On going to the coach to set out for Cleves, I had the pleasure to find, that I was to have for my fellow-passenger a gentleman I had been in company with at Leyden. He spoke the "four languages," one of which is German. On entering among a people of an unknown tongue, an interpreter was an acquisition. The object of his journey was the recovery of his health, for which purpose he was going to the hot baths at Aix-la-Chapelle. His route was by Cologne*

* It is usually pronounced as if but one syllable. In the stamp put on my passport it is spelled KOELN.

on the Rhine. On looking at your map, you will be ready to think, he might have found a nearer way. In that you will be mistaken. By taking post-horses, and a carriage for himself, he might indeed have gone by Dusseldorf, and saved a few miles, but by a public conveyance he had no other choice. Such is the rarity of travelling here.

The country was considerably diversified in its appearance. The road approached near to the Rhine, and sometimes was a foot under water. The river extended much farther than I had yet seen it do. The whole plain strongly recalled to my fancy the vision of Mirza and the valley of Bagdad, as described by Addison. Wooded islands at a distance, saved from the general devastation, here and there appearing, increased the resemblance: but, in vain my imagination strove to fancy them the happy islands of the blessed. A Mennonist clergyman, of a congregation of that persuasion at Cleves, was a passenger in the coach, and he was anxious to be informed of the religious persuasions, and modes of worship in England. He spoke English, but only imperfectly.

We soon arrived at the Prussian frontier. There is a public-house, but no guard: no one demanded a passport, or examined our luggage. To this liberality of the government I may here add, that no one ever did so from the time I entered the kingdom, to the time I went out. We stopped at the first village to refresh the horses. The large crucifix before the church, the cross marked with lime on the ends of the houses, and the pictures in the inn, announced that we were got into a land of a different faith. At Cleves, having taken places at the "*post-haus*" for Cologne, for which we paid 19 francs 40 centimes, or about 16 shillings, we ordered breakfast at the inn opposite, and went, whilst it was getting ready, to look at the town. It is but a poor place, but it commands fine prospects; and in particular of the Rhine, about three miles off: there are also walks of most beautiful, lofty, wide-spreading trees. I recollected Ann of Cleves, the wife of Henry VIII.; but I saw no woman, on whom I could have the conscience to bestow the appellation made use of by the disappointed monarch.

At the inn, we had such a comfortable

breakfast of coffee, bread and butter, and eggs, as a keen appetite demanded; the charge was only nine-pence. The fire-pan stood on the table for the pipes, and the women had the broad-brimmed hats of Holland. We set out at twelve.

The road to Xanten lay through a sandy country, for which the rainy season had been particularly favourable. Like Pharaoh's lean cattle, that seemed none the better for all they had received, the country and road seemed as dry as if not a drop had fallen. The ruts were about six or eight inches deep, and we got but slowly along.

We arrived at Xanten after five, and being desirous of improving time, while dinner was getting ready, we went to see the church. On the outside of it were many crucifixes, and other representations of scriptural history. I took notice, that the two thieves had mustachoes, like Prussian hussars. Inside the church was full of pictures, figures of saints, carved work, and ornaments of every sort. We were told, it had twice been burned down by the Goths, and rebuilt by pious contributions, in which England had borne a share. The villagers and neigh-

bouring peasants come every morning to their devotions. We returned to dinner, and found the half bottle of Rhenish wine set down beside every plate as a matter of course. It is so all over the country. We had the clean towel and the silver spoon also; but were not to have the silver fork till we again came nearer the Netherlands. Much, too much, time was allowed for dinner; but at last we were called away, and went on to Rheinberg, whither we arrived at nine o'clock at night.

I can say nothing of this town, except that it is on the banks of the Rhine. I was asleep when the coach stopped, and fell asleep immediately after it set out. We had to remain, impatiently enough on my part, for two hours and a half waiting for horses. At last the diligence from Cologne arrived, and we were soon after summoned to depart. I was told, we had the horses which brought it forward to go back with us. The little progress they made renders it likely. The other diligence would go on with our horses. At Rheinberg I met with two gentlemen, who had come passengers from Aix-la-chapelle.

They complained that the English did not spend money enough amongst them, which they attributed to avarice, and I heard that complaint many times afterwards.

The whole of that night and the next day till eleven at night, we were on the road, moving on at a pace, which it was too much for my philosophy to bear with patience. The roads were indeed dreadful, the ruts nearly a foot deep, and the rains had otherwise rendered them miry and heavy. The conducteur and postilions were lazy to the *ne plus ultra* of that quality. It cannot surprise any one that the roads are bad, they have never been paved, and for nearly three years they have not been repaired.

I recollect when I was a boy at school, reading Voltaire's History of Charles XII., that the grand vizier of Turkey gave it as an excuse to that monarch, for making a treaty with the Czar Peter the Great, and allowing him to escape when in his power, that the Russians must have some one to govern them. At that time I contemned the argument, and quite approved of the conduct of Charles XII., who drew the

spurs of his boots, so as to tear the Vizier's robe. The journey from Cleves to Cologne made me see, there was some little sense and meaning in what the Vizier said; and if the King of Prussia and his ministers do not bestir themselves a little, and cause the peasants to repair the highways as formerly, and make them observe a little rule and order on the road, there is many a poor traveller as well as myself, who will begin to think that their former master, Napoleon, who was never to be trifled with, was the only man to keep them in order. In fact, to use no joke, the annoyance is more than you in England can suppose, and it is no relief to a man of fortune to travel in his own carriage. The jolting and tossing in some parts of the way are more noisy and rude, than ever I felt at sea in the severest gale. The postilions will not move on a step faster than they like for any man. The peasants with their carts will dispute the way with a carriage, and as a gentleman will not like to risk the shock, he is obliged to give way. In addition to this, the impositions at the inns on a foreigner

travelling in genteel style, and not in company with the natives, are such as our countrymen, who have at last begun to study economy, find very disagreeable.

The heavy Germans are so used to this manner of proceeding, that they really seem to think it right to go a creeping pace. With their great pipes of porcelain, with a horn stalk, into which they put half an ounce of tobacco at a time, and fasten on the lid, they keep smoking for hours like Dutchmen. When I grumbled and complained, that we should stop more than an hour at Oording to breakfast, and an hour and a-half at Creveld to change horses and a few parcels, I could get no one to join me, and they even hinted, that Englishmen were very impatient and troublesome, and that people must not be hurried, but allowed time to do their business properly. When I proposed to offer the conducteur five francs each, if he arrived by a certain reasonable hour, and to threaten him with having nothing at all if he failed, no man would second the motion. I never so much regretted having none of my countrymen with me. I saw it was no use, to

say any thing but reconcile myself to what was not to be mended. I succeeded in doing so, and passed most of the time in uninterrupted observation of the country.

For the whole way I saw not a single spot uncultivated. The crops seemed good, though in some parts beaten down by the rain. Wet as it might be, the peasants had been forced to cut down the barley because of its ripeness, and set it up in single sheaves. I saw not one gentleman's country house the whole day. Who would build his seat, and go to dwell in the way and tract of the desolation of war? The farm-houses are not very common. Immense tracts of land are without a single house. It is the same in many parts of France. In countries subject to the ravages of war, from which happily we have been exempt, a solitary house is exposed to the barbarities of every ruffian straying from his detachment. In villages there will probably be an officer sent, and authorised barbarities alone are all that are likely to be committed. I presume it must be on this account chiefly that the peasants collect in villages. They were frequently to be seen

ploughing their own fallow ground with one horse, or one ox, by means of a little plough, with two wheels and one handle. Dr. Goldsmith says, "their instrument for cutting down corn in Germany is much more handy and expeditious than the sickle used in England," Essay XII. I agree in thinking so too. The peasants were not unfrequently without stockings and shoes. The young women use a small piece of white cloth, which covers a part of the crown of the head. It seemed to me at first as if put on because of a wound. In Cologne, where the young women often can shew lovely ringlets of hair, a piece of network fastened on in a similar manner, is really not unbecoming. In fact the women at Cologne are in general handsome, fine figures, like the women of England. In Belgium, Holland, and France, the women are much inferior. For the whole day, we met but two diligences. One leaves Cologne every morning. We met also two vehicles with respectable-looking people. The carts of the peasants were few in number. That was all the traffic on the road. The inns on the road, that at Nuis ex-

cepted, are miserable and filthy, and good German stoves were their only recommendation. The back-yard and out-houses were in a very slovenly style. I had always abundance of time to go about and inspect every thing.

By the road side are to be seen several memorials of the devotion of the country. In the early part of the day we passed two or three crucifixes of Jesus, painted on boards, and fastened on poles by the road side. We passed also a little hut, which I had time to go and look at, in which was a most miserable defaced little image of the Virgin. A little past Nuis we saw a most beautiful Virgin, with the child in her arms, standing on a pillar, and a large ring of stars round her head. We soon after passed a crucifix of Jesus tolerably well executed. I am thus minute to enable you to judge for yourself of the people.

The town of Nuis, where we dined, is fortified, but not strongly. It contains about six thousand people, and is rather a pretty place. It is a mile or more from the Rhine. Not far from Nuis we passed the canal, begun by the late ruler of France, but not

finished. It was to unite the Rhine and the Maese. Where the highways are in such a miserable condition, and have not been mended since the battle of Leipsick, it is unnecessary to inquire if the canal be going on.

Our road, after passing Nuis, lay near the Rhine, and in some parts was quite close upon it. It was running along in a rapid, muddy current, but had here made no ravages on its banks. Its velocity indicated that a vast body of water was passing on, but otherwise its undivided stream was no way comparable to one of the branches into which farther down it divides itself. We saw the vast and numerous towers of the cathedral and churches of Cologne, long before the setting of the sun. Darkness came on, I fell asleep, and awoke betwixt ten and eleven, when the diligence stopped before the gate of the town. The Prussian guard opened it, and inquired of a military passenger his name and business; they asked no questions of any other person, and demanded no passports. We drove through the ruinous streets to the post-house, opposite to which we entered the Hotel of the

Court of Mentz, and were happy in finding a well supplied *table d'hote*, ready for supper, and such accommodations as a weary traveller was glad to accept.

Being got to the end of a very wearisome journey, I beg leave to drop the pen.

I am,

My dear Sir,

&c. &c.

LETTER XIX.

MY DEAR SIR,

YOU will allow that after the tedious proceedings of the two days' journey, I had a right to indulge a little more than usual, I accordingly lay in bed till eight, for do what I could, my ever-anxious, ever-insatiable curiosity would allow me no longer; I sat writing the notes of my journal till breakfast, which by the aid of Stenography, I easily accomplished, and after my morning repast, I sallied forth to explore this extensive and ancient city, the Roman colony founded by Agrippa, the son-in-law of Augustus Cæsar.

Three centuries ago Scaliger thus eulogises it.

“ Maxima cognati Regina Colonia Rheni,
Hoc te etiam titulo musa superba canet;
Romani statuunt-habitat Germania-terra est,
Belgia-ter felix! nihil tibi diva deest.”

I presume not to say, what might then be the condition of the city, and how far

the poet flattered or bestowed just praise, but very different is the case now. I should rather apply, as nearer the truth, the language of Ossian, "I have seen the walls of Balclutha, but they were desolate." Ruin long begun, and still going on, marks its principal streets. The plaster is falling from the fronts of the houses, and no one seems disposed to renew it. The year of 1618, and others of that period, which you see on the outside, lead one to question, if aught has been renewed since then. Waving grass is growing in the streets, and as you enter many of the principal churches, you must keep in the narrow path, "the old path," or in rainy or wet weather, as it was when I was there, you will have cause to repent. Indolence seems painted on the countenances of the people, and they seem to move as if they knew not why, or whither, they were going. Many of the houses have fallen down, others are falling, and in many places you see ruins clearing away to add to the gardens, which already fill up two thirds of the space within the walls.

Cologne boasts of its antiquity, and of

its greatness. Still Colonia Agrippæ may often be seen in public inscriptions, and they tell you that full more than fifty thousand inhabitants remain to listen to its never-ceasing bells. It was once a place of great trade, but the banishment of the Protestants in the seventeenth century destroyed its industry.

It was a city of priests, who spent there the riches of the country, but the days of ecclesiastical greatness are past. It possessed also monopolizing privileges in trade, which the good sense of modern times has abolished. Hence its decline. The people still speak with regret of the good times, when the canons spent their revenues there, like princes of the Empire, and the never-ending festivals and splendid processions at once brought wealth and entertainment to their city. The poverty of the clergy is now as remarkable as their former opulence, and their processions are "like angel visits, short and long between." The monasteries and nunneries are also no more. On making inquiry for them, I found one, that of the Jesuits, was become a central school; another was an hospital; a third was con-

verted into barracks for soldiers, &c. Not one remained for its former use. No monk or nun was to be seen in the streets. Formerly black monks were ever to be seen crawling about, and annoying strangers for money.

A most numerous class of boatmen and porters at the quay along the Rhine, a more industrious, but here not a more useful class than the monks, no longer finds employment. By an iniquitous and absurd regulation, every ship which came down the Rhine, was obliged to stop, and unload her cargo at Cologne; as well as every ship that came up. A great delay was thus occasioned, an immense expense was incurred for no reason whatever, but to find employment for men, whose labour here was of no benefit to those who were compelled to employ them. In fact every thing seems to have been done by man, to counteract the bounty of nature. Every petty prince along the Rhine laid on what toll he pleased on the goods that went past, and their tolls were innumerable and exorbitant.

The whole of this is now happily swept away. The tolls are abolished, or regu-

lated by treaty. No vessel is compelled to stop at Cologne, and the port is no longer the resort of involuntary shipping. I am sorry to say, that the destruction of war has counteracted the benefit of this wise regulation, for such is the want of commerce, that few ships indeed are to be seen on the river, and I was told, not above four or five in a day ever came down past Cologne. I counted the masts along the quay, and they might be about eighty. As some vessels have two masts, they might be about sixty in number. Few indeed for such a city, and such a mighty river!

It was easy to obtain a guide in the town, as the long residence of the French garrison, and the intercourse with France, had rendered the language pretty general amongst the inhabitants. The first place I went to was the cathedral. It is a vast, but unfinished, Gothic building, of beauty, which connoisseurs say is unequalled. Several people were at their devotions, and the servants of the church were equally busy in shewing its rarities to strangers. The most remarkable are the splendid and costly monument, and the crowned skulls

of the Three Kings. To what a pitch will not ignorance and superstition carry a besotted people ! And what are the limits of imposition, when it is found to succeed !

Being well versed in Ecclesiastical history, you are better able than I am, to expose the absurdity of this invention. That Magi, by miraculous aid, came from the East to visit our infant Saviour, is found in the commonly received text of St. Matthew. But no line of Scripture, and no ecclesiastical historian tells us any thing farther. Tradition, however, is said to hand it down, that they were Three in number, and that they were Kings. Hence, the church celebrates the festival of the Three Kings, and in our country, the people observe that day, under the name of Twelfth Day, as a time for rejoicing. So far let that pass, I do not wish to interfere. But how have the names been found out, and how have the priests of Cologne been able to find their skulls, as no man ever knew their dwelling, or their tomb ? How have they even been able to distinguish and know the skulls, and to put the names of Balthasar, &c. and make no mistake ?

Such things might pass current once, but even at Cologne they will hardly do so now. The monument or tomb is exceeding splendid. It is in the shape of a temple, is said to be of the purest gold, and is stuck full of precious stones, which, they tell us, are very rare, and of infinite value. As to that, I cannot say. I only know, that most people who see them believe so. I however am hardy enough to doubt it, and am confirmed in my scepticism by the knowledge of the fact, that when the holy Cottage of Loretto in Italy was rifled, even there, in that sacred edifice, the stones and jewels were found to be only imitations of the rich gifts which had been bestowed. I should suppose at Cologne, equal worldly-wisdom, and ingenuity would be found. Be that as it may, the tomb of the Three Kings is still looked up to with a certain veneration, and in its late peregrinations to escape the rapacity of the French, it has equalled the famed pilgrimages of the bones of St. Cuthbert in our own island *. On the approach of the

* Vide Scott's *Marmion*.

enemy, the priests bore it to Arensburg in Germany; they thence, to escape the armies, bore it to Hamburg. Lubec also was honoured by the presence of the precious relic; which, after the re-establishment of religion in France, was again restored to its old habitation, to gratify the devotion of the Colonists of Agrippa.*

Another imposition practised on the credulity of the people, is at the church of St. Ursula, and the eleven thousand virgins. This shrine of superstition does not suit the taste of the present age, and does not seem much in vogue, for on going thither, I found the church was not kept open, except on Sundays, and my guide had to go and find the door-keeper. The skulls of St. Ursula and her companions are shewn within glass; and on high, all round the

* The Three Kings were formerly better known in England, and occasionally furnished the subject of the Corpus-christi plays, or Miracle-plays, so much in use before the Réformation, and which are still so in Spain. By the ordinary of the goldsmiths, plumbers, glaziers, pewterers and painters, date 1536, they were commanded to play at their feast, "*The Three Kings of Coleyne.*" Brand's History of Newcastle.

edifice, are placed what they say are the bones of the sisterhood.

The legend respecting this British saint, and her noble companions, is this. There had settled a numerous body of Britons in Bretagne, to the number, says tradition, of thirty thousand soldiers, and one hundred thousand plebeians. Their destined brides, St. Ursula, with eleven thousand noble, and sixty thousand plebeian virgins, mistook their way, and landed at Cologne. A strange wandering, one would suppose! The Huns coming upon them, rather than submit to the passions of these barbarians, they chose to lose their lives. The plebeian sisters have been defrauded of their equal honors.*

Such a legend may have gained assent in a dark age; and, as the moral example to be drawn from it was praise-worthy, it has been allowed to remain uncontradicted amongst the vulgar, until, in the silent lapse of time, it gradually, like many others, becomes forgotten.

I am well aware, that there are many,

* Gibbon's Decline and Fall.—Usher's Antiq. Britan. Eccles.

who, when they hear of any local superstition of this sort existing, immediately charge it upon the whole body of the Catholics, and consider it as an inseparable part of their faith. This, I am sure, you will not do: it would be illiberal and unjust; and whoever will read Eustace's Travels in Italy, may see in what manner a well-informed Catholic clergyman will speak of the Cottage of Loretto, and the blood of St. Januarius at Naples, two of the popular superstitions of that country. A well-informed Catholic holds in equal contempt, the delusions of the mob at Cologne. At the same time, we have a good and just cause to reproach the high authorities of that church, that possessing the influence and power they have, they do not exert themselves to repress those local absurdities, which really bring a reproach on their whole communion, and give so much encouragement to the enemies of the whole Christian faith.

The churches and chapels of Cologne were formerly innumerable; they are still very many, and the services of religion in one place or other are going on all the day. The priests now, are reduced to the number

of those who really officiate. An effectual way of diminishing them was found, in bringing down their emoluments to the lowest sum on which it was possible to exist. Six or seven hundred francs, i. e. 25*l.* or 30*l.* a year is the usual salary; and at the Cathedral it does not exceed 1000 francs, or about 42*l.* a year: we may reckon these as good as double the sum in England. The salary is paid by government; the canons are supposed to enjoy a much better income, from the produce of the jewels and riches, sold in foreign countries. It is evident, since so small a pittance only is given, that few men of family interest will enter into the church. Youthful ambition will prefer the epaulette and the sword, to the cross and the mass-book. The King of Prussia found things thus arranged by the French; and he has no interest to make any alteration. In one respect, the inhabitants have cause to regret the change of political affairs; the taxes have been much increased, to defray the expences of the war. At present, there is little commerce, and the people feel very unpleasant.

One of the most interesting churches is

that of St. Gereon, with its lofty dome. I went thither without a guide, about six in the evening, and found the priests chaunting the service, and a crowd of poor people assisting in singing. The place was very dirty, and faded artificial flowers, which remained year after year, supplied the place of the elegant and fresh-gathered flowers in the churches of Belgium. The servant of the church readily comprehended, by signs, that I wished to go on the top, and he conducted me. From that place may be viewed the whole of the vast extent of the city, of which so large a part is in gardens. The solitary sentinel stalks around the brick-wall, like the Danaides in Tartarus, under cliffs which every moment seemed to fall. The Rhine may be traced in all its glory; and far beyond it is a lovely country, rising into hills, in which the fields of varied hue, the hedges and woods strongly remind one of England. Toward France, the eye wanders over the vast extent of level ground, in which the shade of the different crops alone furnished a variety. When I came down, I saw a printed notice in Latin, stuck up on the door, which by the aid of short hand, I quickly took

down. It stated, that Pope Clement XIII. in his discretionary power of distributing the stock of good works, laid up by the faithful, had listened to the intercession of certain brethren, and had granted a full and complete absolution of all sins, past, present, and to come, to all those who should come to visit the shrine of Alexius, on his festival day, and there pray sincerely for the salvation of Kings, the destruction of Heresy, and the success of the Church.

It is possible, this notice was entirely of Cologne manufacture. If it was not, it nevertheless shews an anxiety not to forfeit by disuse, privileges once granted.

It was gratifying, after seeing such a thing, to learn, that there was a Reformed Church, with two clergymen, supported by a congregation of opulent merchants. Competition, which in all things has a good tendency, may here be particularly beneficial.

The only other church deserving much notice is that of St. Peter, in which is the celebrated picture of the Crucifixion of that Apostle, by Rubens; brought back from Paris, to the great joy of the Agrippenses. A copy of it is seen over the altar; but when

a stranger comes, a servant of the church unlocks the doors behind it, and makes the picture wheel round on a pivot, and the view of this masterpiece of art is truly delightful. Of course, something is to be given for the good of the church, but no express fee is demanded.

Cologne has the honor to be the birth-place of Rubens. His family, which had borne the first honors at Antwerp, fled to Cologne, during the desperate struggle, in which Holland acquired her freedom. I went to see the house in which Rubens was born; it is near St. Peter's church. The family afterwards returned to Antwerp, where the far-famed family picture, and other masterpieces of his art, are now to be seen. The register of his baptism is at St. Peter's church, Cologne, and it was on taking a copy of that register, that he presented this picture of high renown, which connoisseurs admire, and which every mind of sensibility must view with feelings of strong emotion.

Cologne is the seat of a court of appeal. Its university, like the universities of France, no longer exists. It has a school of law,

a school of medicine, and a theatre of anatomy. Not having the advantage of the society of a friend professionally acquainted with such institutions, I did not go to see them. I did not fail to visit the college, or central school, at which are five professors; and where are educated one hundred and thirty youths, the sons of the principal families in the town and neighbourhood. The principal branches taught are German, Latin, Greek, Mathematics, Geography, and History. German is the language in which instruction is communicated. It was formerly French; but it is the object of the King of Prussia, throughout all his territories formerly subject to France, to excite in the minds of his young subjects, a strong feeling of German nationality. Beyond the Rhine, the feeling of resentment against the French is strong as in Holland. At Cologne, I cannot venture to say that the same is the case. In the central school, in the great hall for public examinations, are seen the Prussian Eagle, which indeed is got up every where about the town, and several inscriptions about Agrippa, Trajan, Frederic William,

the Goddess Minerva, and gratitude to Almighty God for the expulsion of the French. In the centre is the following, which being very expressive, I give verbatim at length.

(The Prussian Eagle at the top.)

GERMANI. SUMUS.
AUDEAT. REDIRE.
SANCTA. FIDES.
ET. SINE. FRAUDE. SINE. METU.
GERMANA. VIRTUS.
CUSTOS. JUVENUM. PUDOR.
PATRUM. IN. MUSAS. NOSTRAS.
FIDUCIA.
RERUM. BEATA. PLENO.
COPIA. CORNU.

“ We are Germans—May there dare to return sacred fidelity, and German virtue, without fraud, and without fear : Modesty, the guardian of youth : the attachment of our fathers to our own muses : and blessed plenty with a full horn.”

So far it may be commendable. But the professor to whose politeness I am indebted for seeing the college, informed

me, that the King of Prussia had abolished the professorship of French, at Cologne, and in all the colleges of the left bank of the Rhine, and did not allow that language to be used, as formerly, in communicating instruction, or to be taught at all within the colleges. The pupils are accordingly forced to be taught by private masters, with great inconvenience, and more expence. It is no longer a matter of choice, whether French is to be learned. The King of Prussia, and his ministers, and generals must speak it themselves, when they converse, or transact business with foreigners ; and his subjects at Cologne are under the same necessity. To Englishmen it is a desirable matter that they should speak it, and after being in so many towns, where it was impossible to understand the current language of the people, and where I was obliged even to go to two or three booksellers' shops, before I could obtain what I wanted, the pleasure of being restored at Cologne to the complete intercourse of human society, was felt by me most truly gratifying. The order of the King on this head, only tends to diminish

the respectability of the college, to betray a narrow-minded jealousy ; how different from William of the Netherlands, and in that light I heard the gentlemen of Cologne speak of it.

The Botanic garden is extensive, full of plants, and very beautiful.

The flying bridge on the Rhine is the scene of the most activity at Cologne. I went across the river by it, to see the country beyond, but as the roads were scarcely passable, and as no variety presented itself, the excursion was made very short. I shall here endeavour to describe the bridge, as we have got nothing of the kind in England.

The bridge consists of two very large barges, fastened together, and a flooring of strong boards put over them, with a rail round the side to prevent accidents. This deck of the bridge is, they say, capacious enough to receive 1500 people ; it certainly could accommodate 500 with great ease. An anchor is fixed in the river, far up above the bridge, a chain goes from the anchor to a boat, from that boat a chain goes to another boat, from that to a third,

a fourth, fifth and sixth ; from this last boat it goes to the bridge. The bridge is kept fast to the side, till the passengers, horses, cattle, carriages, waggons, &c. are all got on board. A bell rings to announce its going off. When all is ready, the chain which fastens the bridge to the side is loosed, the helm is moved, so that the force of the current carries the bridge off from the side, and as the chain from the boats will not allow it to go down the stream, it is carried towards the other side. People go round and collect the fare. When the bridge has gained the opposite bank, it is made fast to the side, and passengers, horses, &c. move off. The bridge waits a short while for a fresh cargo, and goes back. It thus goes on alternately, from early in the morning till late at night. The river is here four hundred and fifty paces broad. I think I paid a penny each time for passing. The charge for carriages is pretty high, I forget the exact sum. An English gentleman, whom I met at the hotel, paid six francs at Dusseldorf. This was higher than usual, on account, they said, of loss and trouble occasioned by

the increase of the torrent, from the heavy rains.

Such were the objects worthy of notice, which I saw at Cologne. As it is a great thoroughfare for Germany, I had the satisfaction of meeting with many of our countrymen. It was a high gratification to see the soft, and amiable pleasing countenances, and manners of British ladies, after being compelled so long to look on Dutch, or German women. It is no flattery, and any of our countrymen who have had the same experience, will say the same.

I am,

&c. &c.

LETTER XX.

MY DEAR SIR,

THE time which I had allowed myself, when I set out on my journey, not permitting me to go farther into Germany, and the state of the roads, the manners of the people, and the unfavourable reports received from our countrymen who returned, also affording but small temptation, it was now determined to move towards England, taking Paris in the way ; I therefore took a place in the diligence for Aix-la-Chapelle. We started at four in the morning, and proceeding through the long, narrow, and ruinous streets, at last got out of the Roman colony of Agrippa.

A short way out of town is an extensive burying ground with the inscription over the gate,

FUNERIBUS AGRIPPENSIIUM

LOCUS SACER.

Almost every grave has a cross erected over it, to remind the passer by, of the medium through which we are to look for eternal life.

The inconveniencies and fatal consequences arising from burying the dead in churches, are every day becoming more and more understood. In different parts of Holland, may be seen burial places outside of the town, at such a distance, that no injury can possibly arise to the living. The Accauacs, says a late publication, reduce the bodies of their parents to powder, and drink them. Is it from an analogous principle of piety, observes M. de St. Foix, "that in our churches, we respire the particles of putrefaction which exhale from them?*" In real truth, it arose from a superstitious idea of superior safety for the soul, in the body being placed near where the services of religion were performed. Such an idea is now diminished in its force, for even in Cologne, where there are so many churches, the living con-

* Vide Anecdotes Medical and Chemical.

sult their safety, by depositing their dead beyond the walls.

The road lay through a country, of which not an inch was observed uncultivated. Here and there were trees, but no inclosures. The road was bad, though much better than from Cleves to Cologne. We met a vast number of waggons or carts, and the traffic must be considerable. Many crucifixes are erected near the road. We met a carriage, which the German passengers at once pronounced to belong to "*Englanders*." A mile or two farther we met another, when they called out "*Englanders encore*." A carriage of "*Englanders*" also, returning home, went through Juliers, when we stopped to dinner. It may appear of no moment to relate such accidental sights of our countrymen, but the impression felt by me at the time was strong. You know not how you love your country and your countrymen, and how much you have cause to do so, until you have been a little time from home.

Throughout the whole day, I do not recollect seeing above one country-house, in which a gentleman could possibly be

accommodated. The farm-houses are also in villages. One or more of those which we passed through, had a brick wall drawn round, to enable the inhabitants to resist the ravages of detached plunderers. Such is the condition of life, in a country visited often by the scourge of war.

Juliers appears to be a place very strongly fortified. We saw, as we came near, extensive outworks ; we crossed a broad outer ditch, over the draw-bridge, and through the outer gate, and having passed over the inner ditch, and through the inner gate, we saw a vast number of Prussian soldiers in the town. We dined here ; and for a very good dinner and half a bottle of Rhenish wine, paid two francs and a half, or about two shillings.

I had every reason to be much satisfied with the politeness of my fellow passengers. One was an officer, who wore a cross of St. Anne, in recompense for services and wounds in Russia, against the French near Moscow. Though all native Germans, they spoke no German, from pure politeness, all the day. What they failed to communicate

in useful information, they more than made up in amusement. One or other sung songs, almost the whole day, and all joined aloud in the chorus. They told amusing stories, and all heartily joined in the laugh. Never men appeared more happy, and I should ill deserve the name of a man, if I had not felt a satisfaction in their felicity.

In the course of the afternoon, we had personal observation of the violent and unruly conduct of the peasantry, of which I had heard our countrymen complain. We met seven or eight carts in a line, and contrary to all justice, they endeavoured, though clearly in the wrong, to dispute the way with the diligence. We encouraged the conducteur and postilions to remain firm. Both got off their places, and the peasants came up near them. A scene of clamour and gesticulation ensued, and much language was exchanged, which was no doubt very edifying, but being in German, I could not derive any benefit from it. They continued thus for fourteen or fifteen minutes, when the peasants gave way. The passengers cheered every cart as it went past, and

the peasants manifested much shame and rage at their defeat. It was about seven when we arrived at Aix-la-Chapelle.

The variety of languages, in which the signs on the shops were expressed, indicated that we were in a frontier town. Some signs also in the English language, shewed that our countrymen were there, and their company by some at least held in estimation. I afterwards found several who spoke the language. Nothing can be more beautiful than the situation of the town, and its elegance and neatness correspond. It is the Bath of Germany.

The first place to which my "*domestique de place*" conducted me, was to the hill above the town, where is erected the pillar in honor of the late ruler of France. There are pleasant walks on this hill, with seats for public accommodation. Every step almost presents a new prospect, and the view of the different vallies is truly delightful. The fields are divided by hedges, and, with the trees, appear beautiful. They have a charm above all others, because they strongly remind the spectator of England. It was easy for me, for a moment, to im-

pose on my fancy, and to think I was viewing the valley of High Wycomb, and others in Buckinghamshire. Such was the play of fancy ; but it is cool sober truth to say that it would be necessary to go far indeed from home, before a land can be seen, for which the industry of man has done the half to improve its beauties, as has been done in our own.

The pillar or obelisk in honor of Napoleon is not very lofty. When the Cossacks were there, they overturned it, and dug up the foundation to get at the coins deposited under it. It has since been re-erected by the order of the King of Prussia. It has the original shape, but has a shattered appearance. The geographical and astronomical observations, on two sides of it, remain ; the inscriptions recording the triumphs of France, and hurtful to the feelings of the Prussians, on the other two sides, have been erased, and others relative to more recent events and the overthrow of Gallic power substituted. The pillar remains as an ornament to the place, and a monument of blasted ambition.

Aix, though a fashionable watering place,

is a devout city. The cathedral was literally crowded by six in the morning. On the side of the hill going up to Bonaparte's pillar, is a chapel with images, to which the people go in procession during Lent. There is a Protestant church at Aix. The amusement of shooting with the bow on Sundays and holidays prevails as much as in Belgium.

I am seldom very anxious to go to see those little curiosities at any place, which have no local connection or importance. I wish to see those things, on which the greatness and importance of a town depend. At Aix, beyond all doubt, the hot spring baths, in this sense, have the first claim. Of course I went thither, and also drunk a little of the sulphureous waters, though as the whole have no need of a physician, I took very little, and declined a perspiration from the use of the bath. Being desirous of knowing the expenses, I made inquiry at the *Reine d'Hongrie*, the lowest in the place; and no one need take offence at the money being too little, as there are enough places at Aix, where his ambition in that way may be gratified to his utmost desire.

For the warm bath a franc and a half (15*d.*), or a franc only, if engaged for some time. Two francs and a half (25*d.*) for the vapour bath. At other bathing houses it is higher. At the *Reine d'Hongrie* for lodgings, (of course a bed room as usual on the continent,) for breakfast, attendance, and the daily use of the bath, if required, the charge is four francs and a half, or 3*s.* 9*d.* An invalid, in narrow circumstances, may therefore come hither, and there are splendid hotels, at which may be spent the income of a Prince. I ought to say also, that there are baths for the use of the poor *gratis*.

There were many Prussians, and other Germans, Dutch, and Belgians, who had come for health and pleasure to Aix. There were few or no French, and not many English. My *domestique de place* informed me *twelve* English were at a great public ball two nights before I arrived. Many of our countrymen I met at Cologne, and elsewhere, complained of the exorbitant charges at Aix, and if I am to judge from what was charged at the hotel from myself, travelling with no servant, by the

public diligence, I have good reason to believe they complained not without a good cause. The people of Aix, in their turn, complain of the English, that they now lay out so little, whereas formerly they came like a shower of gold, spreading fertility wherever they went. If an obscure individual, like myself, travel in an unostentatious manner, they say it is from avarice, and that it is going in disguise. They will insist on making an Englishman a great man, whether he choose or not. An admiral, I believe on half pay, at the hotel where I was, they told me, was a Prince of the royal family. They told me, I ought, for the honor of England, to have brought my carriage. This was not the only place, in which honors to which I laid no claim were offered me.

At Maastricht and at Paris, I was asked whether I was not going home to Parliament. Vanity at first suggested this was a compliment, and prudence whispered I should have to pay for it, but when I recollected what sort of avowedly pensioned men, foreign parliaments consisted of, I

thought that vanity and prudence need not give themselves any trouble about the matter.

I have only one circumstance more to relate about Aix-la-Chapelle. There was there a statue of the Emperor Charlemagne, on a pedestal in one of the streets, which was taken to Paris along with the tomb of Charlemagne from the cathedral, and both were there shewn, with the usual liberality, along with all other things, without fee or demand. The valour of our armies, and of other armies whom we paid, overthrew the French, and Aix, like other towns, got back its own. I saw the statue in its former place, and inquired in the cathedral for the tomb, and was told I might see it, but it was under lock and key, and I must pay 6 francs before I could be gratified. When a man has travelled all the way to Aix, 6 francs more can be no object, but I conceived it to be a shameful and illiberal demand, and denied myself the gratification of my curiosity. On reflection I approve of what I did, and I flatter myself I shall have your approbation also.

I have nothing more to add to this letter, except that Aix is a great manufacturing town also, and that coals are very abundant all over the neighbouring country.

I am,

&c. &c.

LETTER XXI.

MY DEAR SIR,

WHATEVER enjoyments other lands can boast of, there is no country which can rival our own in all conveniencies for travelling. No sooner out of town, but you roll along a smooth and easy road. To whatever part of the kingdom you choose to go, vehicles are at hand, horses are ready at every stage, and set off in a moment. Public conveyances also going to every place take you at a moderate price, and free you of all trouble and imposition. You may be in Edinburgh in two days and a half, and in Inverness in less than five. Such velocity is inconceivable to most people on the continent. So little travelling is there from Belgium to Germany, that from Maastricht, the frontier town, containing eighteen thousand people, to Aix-la-Chapelle, there is only one coach, and that goes only every second day. So badly is

that one supported, that on the day I went by it, which was a very pleasant day, there were only another gentleman and two ladies passengers, and one of the ladies went but part of the way.

As I was waiting near the diligence to see my portmanteau safely secured, a precaution in travelling always necessary, a gentleman came and inquired of me, if I had seen two ladies. I told him I had had the pleasure, and that they were gone on out of the town by a certain gate, to walk till the coach came up. He immediately spoke to me in English, and as I complimented him on his pronunciation and choice of expression, he proceeded to tell me some of his adventures, when he travelled in England, and presently recurred to the subject of the two ladies. One of them he intended soon to lead to the altar, the other who was her relation, he once had loved, and as she had a very good heart, he respected her still. She had too good and tender a heart, he said, and was unable to resist its influence; that was her misfortune. She had been led to marry an old man, but not meeting that return of senti-

ment she wished, she had parted from him, and was now living on her own property at Maastricht. She had come in company with a favorite gentleman of that city, on a visit to her friends at Aix, and was now returning with him. They had both the best and tenderest of hearts, and if I would not laugh too much, I should find them very good companions on the road. He left me to go and overtake them. When the coach came up, they all four kissed each other, and the two lovers returned to the city.

The pair for Maastricht were sprightly as larks, and sung their gayest songs. They had learned them of the French. The gentleman shewed great fondness for the lady, and was polite to me as an Englishman and a stranger. They were both sufficiently communicative, and were almost as candid as their friend at Aix. I learned in the course of the day from the lady, that the gentleman was a man of great respectability at Maastricht. At the hotel to which he recommended me, from the conversation at the breakfast table next morning, I was taught to believe, he was in-

deed, in the estimation of the ladies, a Romeo.

“ He bears him like a courtly gentleman,
And to say truth, Verona brags of him,
To be a virtuous and well-governed youth.”

Such Platonism of course you will condemn, and I fully agree with you. I drop the subject. My business was not to pass judgment upon others, but to observe the manners and ways as I went on, and to relate impartially what I saw.

The road, as before, lay through a well cultivated country, uninclosed. There were one or two gentlemen's houses. You may smile at me for noticing it, but such things are rarities here. Crucifixes, as usual, are erected by the road side, as memorials of faith. I might have stated in my former letter, that though the peasants are very devout, according to their mode, those who carry goods travel on Sundays as much as on other days. I was told they had learned this of the French. That people, as Mr. Pinkerton observes in his *Recollections of Paris*, whatever political liberty they allowed, always granted complete moral li-

berty, so that a man might at all times be as wicked as he pleased, and be thought none the worse.

We had to stop at the frontiers between the territories of the King of Prussia and the King of the Netherlands, to have our luggage examined, by a Belgic douanier, who was, as usual, in uniform, with a sword by his side. This man, in the exercise of his "brief authority, played no fantastic tricks to make the angels weep," and expected no fee. He was pleased to have an opportunity to shew an admiring audience, the English he had learned at Ostend, and borrowed of me for a few minutes a bank note, to explain its nature, and display his knowledge of finance. It gave me pleasure to see the man so easily made happy. It was not the first time that travelled men had borrowed a bank note for the same purpose.

Maastricht is a most beautiful town, on both banks of the Maese. The shops are elegant, and appear to do much business. The town is strongly fortified. There were several battalions of Dutch troops, but their numbers were very far from being

complete. The town has stood many hard sieges. It was formerly occupied as a frontier garrison town by the Hollanders, and part of the neighbouring territory belonged to them.

The old monkish plan of recording important dates is still practised. To preserve the memory of the overthrow of Bonaparte in 1814, is an inscription in a conspicuous place in the cathedral.

HO DIE. PAROCHIANI. CELEBRANT. JUBILÆUM.

By taking the trouble of writing down the numbers denoted by the long letters, which are the Latin numerals, and adding them together, you will make out the number 1814. A good chronogram, besides giving the date, ought to express an appropriate sentiment.

The walks along the river above the town are interesting, and the boats upon it give it an air of activity. There are many iron boats for crossing the river, for the use of the garrison. The grand curiosity is the mountain of St. Peter, under which a person may go through the different

paths, from which stones have been brought for more than a mile.

The cold, within the mountain, even in summer, is said to be so severe, that ice may be found there. A medical gentleman who accompanied me in my walk to it, strongly dissuaded my penetrating, as the extreme change of climate might probably produce a fever, or death. I entered sufficiently far to feel it become very chilly, and prudently hearkened to good advice. It is one set-off in my conduct, against many perils into which headlong curiosity had driven me. I returned, and went in the evening with my medical friend to a private society. The two chief rules of it were, that all the gentlemen should talk French, and drink wine. There was no newspaper in the house. I did not so much wonder at that, as the continental newspapers in general are such mere scraps of short articles, relating in a meagre style past events. There is nothing to excite an interest in what is going on, to teach the reader to look forward with anxiety and expectation, on the political game which is

playing, and nothing to assist him in forming his judgment of the event. They are equally void of reflections on the past, to enable him to judge of the conduct of the actors of the great political drama. In fact, they are something to stop thinking, not to promote it. They therefore excite little interest. The liberty of printing in Belgium is no doubt greater than during the time of the French, and some of the pages of the *Nain Jaune*, respecting France, are tolerably bold. Hence it excites interest and discussion, and in some towns I have found that paper in a coffee-house, where they took in no other. I have no reason to suppose it was taken in from any political bias, but probably for the same reason, that many London landlords take in an opposition evening paper, because unless something be shewn to be wrong, there is no conversation, and no debate, the house falls off in its interest, and the company go somewhere else.

There is but little travelling from Maastricht to Brussels. The diligence was extremely inconvenient. My fellow passengers were officers of the garrison, and an

officer's lady going to Mons. For the first part the road was paved, and very tolerable. We passed through villages fortified with brick walls. For six or seven miles before coming to Tongres, worse road, I venture to believe is not to be found from Calais to Kamtschatka. In fact the passengers, conductor, and postilions, had to get down and walk, and the poor horses had enough to do after all. At Tongres they did not demand our passports as we entered the town, but before we set off, a police officer attended to examine them.

It is a pretty village, with carillons, and was formerly the seat of a Bishop. It has the honor of having been considerable enough, to have its ruin by Attila recorded in the fifth century, and by the Normans in the ninth. We arrived at St. Trond, at half-past eight. If you look at your map, you will see it was making but small progress from ten in the morning. After waiting long, at last we had supper brought in; we took plenty of time, and when we had finished, I was in hopes of getting on our way. I was told, it was impossible, we must wait for the diligence from Liege. As it

was cold, we went into the kitchen, which we found deserted, and fell asleep by the fire. Hour after hour passed away, and no diligence from Liege: I grumbled, but nobody would assist me. It was no use to grumble alone. At last, at half past two in the morning, the Liege diligence arrived: it had been detained by laziness, and bad roads united. It was full of passengers, who all went on, at least as far as Louvaine. In a few minutes, another diligence was got for us. It was quite dark, but I looked after my portmanteau, or it would certainly have been left behind. I shall not assert, that it would have been left absolutely on purpose. We drove off. Now, for what reason had we been detained six hours at such a time?—My dear Sir, the secret is this. The diligence from Maastricht, which happened to be full of passengers that day, is very frequently not so. The same is the case with the diligence from Liege. They therefore wait until the Liege diligence comes to St. Trond, where the roads meet, and put all the passengers in one. If there be too many, they get an extra-vehicle. Such are the arrangements for travelling;

and such the patience and indifference to loss of time in the people, if they can but save a few francs.

We went through an open, well-cultivated country, and came to Louvaine. What shall I tell you of this beautiful town?—That it contains fifteen thousand people; and that I had drank of its beer at Antwerp, and at Amsterdam?—That it has a central school, and a school of Law and of Medicine?—That a brick-wall is its sole defence, and a Dutch garrison is stationed there?—The name of Louvaine surely excites higher expectations. That far-famed seat of the Muses is not to be passed by as a common mercantile town. But, alas! I came more than a score of years too late; or, may the well-known, benevolent and enlightened views of a Fatherly Sovereign authorize me to say, I came one year too soon. The buildings of its splendid colleges still remain; but it is the body without the soul. Confident hope was entertained, that they would again be opened as seminaries of learning, and that Belgium might again have to boast of its University of Louvaine.

There were formerly many colleges, for

Divinity chiefly, and for various other branches of learning also. The professors and students got involved in politics, and by their too violent opposition to the measures of the Emperor Joseph II. had the colleges dissolved, or transferred to other places. The conquest of the country by the French, confirmed and completed what the Austrians had done; and the funds which supported the university, were applied to less noble purposes. To supply means of education, the Gallic conquerors erected Lycea, in the great cities; and these are in fact the colleges which now exist, although some alterations have been made since the change of government. At Brussels they give away the same printed prospectus as formerly, with a few alterations by the pen, one of which is two ink lines drawn through *Imperial*, and *Royal* written above, instead.

When the University of Louvaine existed in its glory, the students came to it from all parts of the Netherlands; and there was a college for the reception of the Dutch; another for the Irish; and one for the Savoyards. Latin was the language usually

spoken, and in which instruction was communicated. Two years sufficed for completing the course of Philosophy, Logic, Mathematics, &c. There were many bursaries on the foundation, sufficient to maintain poor students; and these, as usual, were the persons who distinguished themselves for their learning. Their course of philosophy being completed, the students now selected their professions. The greater part embraced that of the Church, and pursued theological studies; others studied the Law; others Medicine. Three years, or less, were deemed enough for being qualified for either of the three professions.

The arguments employed in favor of establishing Louvaine as an University, in addition to the veneration with which the old remember the place of their education, are the emulation likely to be produced both in the students and professors, and the advantages of studying, away from the bustle and vice of a great city, in a quiet remote country town.

At present, in Belgium, there is no place for studying the Mathematics and Philosophy, except the colleges, in which, the

course is given, in such a manner, as to coincide with the period usually employed in acquiring the Latin and Greek, or about six years. These sciences cannot therefore be acquired by any, except by those who receive, at the colleges, the whole of their liberal education.

In a Latin oration, published this year at Brussels, on the subject of the restoration of the University of Louvaine, by a medical gentleman of endless titles, there are very heavy accusations against the present medical schools, and the pupils they send forth into practice. Annually Louvaine used to complete the education of above forty medical men, and in the last twenty-four years would at that rate have furnished nine hundred and sixty. "What" says the orator, "has supplied this defect? What hath filled up this immense vacuum? Nothing, except some impertinent men, nominally curing, but in reality slaying. Nothing, except some who have *bought* their Diploma in some academical work-shop, rather than deserved it. Nothing, except some foreign and strange players, all contending for the sad reward of slaughter.

Nothing, except victims snatched by their audacious ignorance, and rash daring, from the land of the living, before their day : the bitter tears of friends and surviving kindred : the lamentations of the sick, continually going by a perverse treatment, as is well known to me, from a small disease to a greater ; the profound groans of those who, instead of approaching to health, are day by day approaching nearer to the tomb?" The orator goes on to say, that if Belgium, like ancient Rome, were to banish all such Physicians, it would only rob the sepulchres, it would advance population, and spare the purse.

It would appear from his account, that we might very justly apply to the medical tribe the words of Horace—

“ Ambubaiarum Collegia, Pharmacopolæ,
Mendici, Mimæ, Balatrones, hoc genus omne
Mœstum ac sollicitum est.”

The old gentleman should have added, what was in his eyes, very probably their greatest crime, that the Physicians of the New School had taken away the patients of the licentiates of Louvaine. It is nevertheless generally understood, that the me-

dical art is very deficient. But no establishment can advance the medical pupils to that degree of knowledge which is necessary, or stimulate the exertions of the practitioners, whilst two francs are thought a sufficient fee for a physician at Brussels, and sixty centimes enough for a Surgeon in a country town.

When the Medical School at Louvaine is again established, it will be necessary to pursue the studies in a very different manner from what was the case formerly. Anatomy was formerly miserably neglected. So very deficient was the instruction in this branch, so necessary particularly to the Surgeon, that even the panegyrist of Louvaine acknowledges, that a whole year has passed without a subject being laid on the dissecting table. The facility with which subjects for dissection may be obtained at a reasonable price in a large city, must give it an advantage, as a Medical School, above an inferior town. Hence, in London, where for four guineas each, as many subjects may be obtained as may be required, Anatomy is prosecuted with more facility than in any other place in the kingdom.

At Louvaine there is a hospital for the sick.

The creation of an University, not in the monkish plan of former times, but under the direction of enlightened and scientific men, will be a real blessing to Belgium, and add a ray of glory to that worthy family which now guides their affairs. I have nothing farther to add to this letter, except, that I had a most delightful journey from Louvaine to Brussels.

I am,

&c. &c.

LETTER XXII.

MY DEAR SIR,

MY journey had now brought me back to Brussels a second time, and as I had sufficiently gratified my curiosity before, I had nothing farther to do, than to go to the police office, to have my passport backed for Paris. There is no French signature required. I took my place for Mons, and went off by six in the morning. The diligence was comfortable, and the road good. Like the rest of Belgium, the country is the richest corn land in the world. My fellow passengers pointed out the road by which 22,000 of the English army marched to the field of battle of Waterloo. The events of that ever-memorable day were the subjects of conversation, and many anecdotes were related of individual officers, who were personally known. We breakfasted at Hal, where the landlady spoke

English, and had an English card of address.

I had time to step in and see the church. It was literally crowded, mostly with peasants in their blue smock frocks, who had come to market. This church was, in former days, highly celebrated as a place of devotion, and the prayers offered up at it, were supposed to be heard with unusual attention. Justus Lipsius, a learned doctor of Louvaine, wrote a treatise in Latin, entitled "*Hallensis Virgo*," a collection of the great miracles performed by God in this place, on the intercession of the * Virgin. In the present day, the prayers are perhaps offered up with rather less faith, and accordingly are not so readily answered.

By three in the afternoon we arrived at Mons, which has an earth wall, and a ditch round it, but which would afford but a small obstacle to an enemy.

After dinner I walked over the town, and made my guide take me to two or three houses, where I hoped to see a newspaper. I did not succeed. A garrison,

* *Les Delices des Pais-Bas.*

said to be 4000 strong, was stationed in the town. In the payment of the tax for patents, it is reckoned a town of the fourth rank, and is said to have a population of about 20,000. It is very handsome and pleasant.

The cathedral is splendid. The great altar was set round with most beautiful laurels in boxes, and so covered with white cloth, that only the leaves were to be seen. There were many Madonnas and but few crucifixes. The same is the case on this road. The good taste of the Belgians prefers, instead of seeing a human figure in the agony of distress, to look on a beautiful young woman, interesting as a mother, with a lovely babe in her arms.

Mons has a consequence beyond what the mere number of its inhabitants would entitle it to. It is the chief town of the province of Hainault, and the seat of the provincial Government and States. There is in the town a large foundling hospital, which I went to see, having omitted it in all the other towns. The mode of receiving the children is very conveniently contrived, to spare the feelings of the poor

parents. A sort of trough is fastened in the great wooden gate, which revolves on a pivot; the child is put into the trough on the outside, and the bell rung. The servants come and whirl the trough round, without opening the gate to see who has left the child; they take it into the hospital, and the parent has no more trouble with it. A considerable number are probably illegitimate, and it is considered a humane institution, both in preventing the murder of the children, and saving the exposure of the mother.

In this town I observed bills placarded about the streets, announcing to the inhabitants the nomination of deputies from the Provincial States, to administer the laws which concerned the local interests of the province. This simple act of the Government was in these bills praised and extolled in terms which more resembled the incense offered to despotic power, than the language of a free people. Under the former Government, the authorities were so accustomed to this style, that they on all occasions used it as a matter of course.

Next morning at eight I set out for

Cambray. The road lay near the scene of the battle of Jemappe, gained by the French in the early days of their revolution. All over this neighbourhood are coal pits, which supply a great part of Belgium, and the North of France. Waggons with coals are what are chiefly to be seen on the road. This is an immense advantage to the country. Even at Cambray, an officer, who of course is out a good deal, may have firing for 3 or 4 francs a month. At Paris the charge for wood is 3 francs a day at an hotel, and not much is given after all.

When we arrived at the village nearest the frontier, the coach stopped, and a Belgic douanier demanded if we had any thing to declare, which had to pay duty. He did not open my portmanteau. In about half a mile we crossed a little brook, and were stopped again at the French custom-house. I had no cause to complain, for they were civil enough, and did little more than just look into my portmanteau. To save the delay of having the same thing done four times more in the course of the day, the passengers had their luggage plumbed, which is done by tying a cord

about the portmanteau, and putting the two ends through a piece of lead, which is hammered together and stamped. It is impossible to get at the things, without cutting the cord. In addition to this, they give a certificate, that this plumbing was done at the custom-house. They demand a franc for plumbing, of course something extra is given for civility. I saw them pierce the coal waggons with long iron rods, to discover if there was any thing concealed.

We soon arrived near Valenciennes. My British feelings were delighted in viewing on a field near the town, a regiment of our brave warriors on the parade. Another lay encamped on the outworks. Just as we got clear of the douaniers, the fifth regiment began their march across the drawbridge, and we had to stop and see them pass. They mustered very strong, they said fourteen hundred men. It was a truly gratifying sight to view the manly countenances, and masculine figures of the British warriors, and their soldier-like plain uniforms, after seeing so long the fopperies of foreign troops.

When we got inside the gate, there was

another tedious delay from the police officers, who were long in examining the passports. The brave soldiers on guard came near, and were anxious to be informed about the state of affairs at home. They expressed their readiness and desire, to have another Waterloo. There were not many troops in the town, as the most part had been sent out to encamp over the country near the villages. Cossack, Prussian, Saxon, and Danish uniforms, were sometimes to be seen.

I had an hour and a half to walk about the town before dinner, to view the tremendous strength of the fortifications.

On leaving the town, we had another examination of the douaniers, and another still, a little farther on. There are many English people along this road on business with the army. Horsemen are stationed at different places, to be ready to forward the military post-bag. I saw Cossacks sitting, seemingly domesticated, who were talking the language of the country. They are rather favorites with the people, as they are easily satisfied in regard to lodgings.

In fact they say they lie down along with their horses, and are very well contented.

The whole country is open, with very little wood, and is well cultivated. The soil is not so productive as in Belgium. Though not hilly, there is sufficient variety to afford a prospect. I should never be thoroughly reconciled to Belgium on account of its flatness. There has been much damage done to the hay crop this season, and a French commissary, who travelled with us, complained much of the vast additional expense, the French government had been put to, in procuring hay and oats for the cavalry of the army of occupation.

When we came to the gate of Cambray, we had another visit from the douaniers, and as we were kept waiting, a man came out carrying a cross, a priest followed, then four boys carrying the corpse, they said, of a boy; a white cloth adorned with artificial flowers was thrown over it. Then came four young girls in white carrying another corpse, adorned in a similar manner, which they said was that of a girl; then other four girls carrying a third corpse, which they

said was that of a girl also. A dozen of people in their working clothes followed. The girls went along laughing, and seemed to make a holiday business of it; and the whole seemed an ill-got-up farce. We at last got clear of the douaniers, and having entered the gate, underwent the inspection of our passports. This was now the fifth time, in about thirty miles, in which the douaniers examined the coach. They are equally strict with the soldiers of the garrison, if they suspect they have got any thing, and the military commanders are said to be very rigid, preventing the soldiers even from obtaining smuggled tobacco for their own use.

At Cambray, I felt again extreme satisfaction in seeing the British Guards. It was a feeling totally abstracted from all political considerations of the advantage, or disadvantage of the Army of Occupation. But very few of our troops were there, the most of them having been sent out to encamp in the country. The wet season has been extremely unfavourable for this part of military discipline.

The fortifications of Cambray are the most

interesting thing to be seen about the town ; and to a Briton, it is a matter of proud exultation, to view its strong citadel in the possession of our Guards. Our men there are much delighted with their present situation, and their pay going more than twice as far as at home, they can live in a very great degree of comfort. Their situation is infinitely superior to that of the poor Belgic soldier, who has his clothes and rations found him, and has every five days only a half franc, or five-pence, to spend at his pleasure. That was the account I was told by different Belgian soldiers, and gentlemen of whom I enquired. A French soldier has only four-pence a day, unless the pay be raised, as was talked of, to half a franc. No wonder all other troops should envy the British soldier in France.

I could see but little the first evening, but as the coach did not set out next day till two in the afternoon, there was more than abundant time for an active man, who chose to employ it. Betwixt eight and nine in the morning, I took a walk with a guide to see the churches. There were twelve before the revolution. The ruins of some of

the principal may be seen, covering with the stones a large space of ground. In Cambray, as in other towns, the churches have been applied to profane purposes, as some are now stables, or hay-lofts, others are coach-houses and coal-houses. There are only two churches remaining at Cambray, for a population of fifteen thousand inhabitants. The greater part of the pictures and ornaments are gone. At prayers between eight and nine, I counted in the first church nearly one hundred, and in the cathedral about thirty.* My guide took notice of the small number, and said "*Voilà M. les vieilles femmes.*" What a sad falling off this is, instead of the crowds which, in a Belgic town, about the same hour, are engaged in the duties of devotion!

Of crucifixes erected by the road side, I had seen only one; and that was soon after crossing the frontier. The only other religious memorial I saw without doors in France, was a large crucifix not far from

* The cathedral is the smaller of the two. The old cathedral in which Fenelon was buried, was destroyed during the revolution.

the point of the pier at Dieppe. That one I understood to be of very recent erection.

It was a truly rich treat to find at Cambray two reading rooms, in which were the English and Paris newspapers; the Edinburgh, Quarterly, and Monthly Reviews; the New Monthly Magazine, Literary Panorama, and some others. The Morning Chronicle, which is not to be seen at Paris, is to be found here. Our brave officers, as well as their countrymen at home, do not like to be led blindfolded in their loyalty, and must hear both sides of the question. The military post-office enables them to get what publications they please; and the French authorities cannot interfere with it. The subscription to the reading-room is 30 francs for six months; 6 francs for one month; and half a franc for one sitting. There was a temporary wooden theatre erected for the performance of plays, by the amateurs of the garrison.

I had paid 18 francs for my place from Brussels to Cambray; from that town to St. Quintin, I paid 7 francs; from St. Quintin to Paris I paid 23 francs; in all, 48 francs from Brussels to Paris, or 2*l*. If travelling

be less rapid than in England, it is less expensive. After what I had gone through, I was more than pleased with all the arrangements. There are many half-pay officers settled at Cambray and Valenciennes. They are there in a scene in which they delight, and their half-pay enables them to live in some sort of comfort.

The country beyond Cambray is well cultivated. Poppies are a very common crop in France. An oil is extracted from them, useful in the manufacture of cloth. The peasants continue to wear, as in Belgium, the blue smock frocks. I noticed a plough of one handle and two wheels, drawn by three horses.

The most wonderful thing to be seen in the whole way is the canal, completed, but not commenced, by the late ruler, to join together the navigation of the Somme and the Scheldt. For about a league and a half it is cut in a tunnel under ground, and the end of the tunnel approaches close to the road; the coach stops, and there are people ready, who immediately fix on the English, to offer their kind services to con-

duct them. The winding path descends through a plantation of trees, and the view of the tunnel is beautiful. The light at the farther end, seen in a straight line, seems close at hand. Men have to drag the barges through the tunnel, and carry torches to guide them through. Several barges generally go in company. It is said, the Spanish prisoners were employed in digging the canal, and I was shewn their prison now in ruins. I observed to the French Gentlemen with whom I travelled, that it was more honourable and praise-worthy in their late ruler, to have finished that noble canal, than to have gained his most splendid victories. They assented, and seemingly with painful regret, that the fruit of all these victories was now no more.

It was dark before we got to St. Quintin. We could see it had two walls and two ditches, like Cambray and Valenciennes. When we got to the middle of the town, the guard examined our passports. Having found there was a countryman of our own in the other coach, that came up with us, attracted by that feeling which we experience only on foreign ground, I went to

take my place for Paris to join with him. They demanded thirty francs, but I told them I would give no more than twenty-three, the usual fare ; they bowed and assented to it. We went to supper. There were many dishes, but except soup, nothing I could taste. Every thing was as far as possible from nature, boiled, broiled, fried, roasted, five times more than was necessary, and all floating in sauces of some sort or other. Not even potatoes could be had as nature produced them. They must be cut each into ten or twelve pieces, and be brought on covered with sauce, or butter about them, that I could make no use of them. Our countryman, whom I had joined, a field-officer who had been long in the country, was as unable to make a supper as I was. We, therefore, ordered eggs to be boiled, and happily the shells protect them from the barbarities of French cooking, and with these, bread and butter, fruit and wine, we made a comfortable meal. I know a gentleman whose culinary curiosity led him to accomplish what I should be loath to undertake. He took the bill of

fare of a *restaurateur* at Paris, and ordered four or five new dishes every day to dinner. In the course of a month, he made his way to the end of the bill. I would sooner be induced to take a draught from every bottle in an apothecary's shop.

When we got into the coach, we found we had for companions two gentlemen, who completely belied the common opinion of Frenchmen being spare and slender. No couple of Whitechapel butchers could have exceeded them in corpulence and fat. To preserve the balance, one sat on the one seat, and the other on the other. Just as we got out of the town, a lady came to the road side to enter the coach. When she got in, she attempted to sit between myself and her countryman, but such was his size, that she complained mightily of the pressure. The gentleman endeavoured to apologize by alledging the impossibility of our sex reducing our size, when overgrown and uncomely. This produced much laughing. The lady moved to the other seat, and the gentleman then began to make love to her, and in a very short while, a marriage was

struck up, which the parties said, they would celebrate at Paris. I had seen such stage-coach marriages before, and was not surprised. Our loving Frenchman now fell asleep, and began rolling about like an immense hogshead of porter, so that I was a good deal in fear. Happily a priest came to join us, whose spare figure just filled up the vacant space, and being now all comfortable, we fell asleep, and so remained until we entered Noyon. We here shewed our passports. We had to quit our diligence, and had to wait about half an hour, or three quarters, until the other diligence was ready. There was quite sufficient light to shew us, that we had no great loss in not having time to view Noyon.

The only interest it possesses, is in having been the birth-place of one of those great men, whose exertions had considerable influence in changing the face of Europe, and introducing, in the course of events, superior knowledge and liberty. Here the great and learned John Calvin first drew his breath ; a name revered in his day by the Protestants, and respected by

the Catholics. No man ever suffered more than he, amongst posterity, by the indiscreet use, which has been made of some of his opinions by his followers. I take the liberty of quoting here a few lines from the great critical work of the learned Father Richard Simon, priest of the Oratory.

“ Au reste, Calvin ayant l'esprit fort élevé, on trouve dans tous ses commentaires sur l'écriture, un je ne scay quoy qui plait d'abord, et comme il s'estoit principalement appliqué a connoître l'Homme, il a rempli ses livres, d'une morale qui touche, et il tache mesme rendre sa morale juste, et conformé a son texte.” Histoire Critique du Vieux Testament.

A liberal mind, like that of Father Simon, knew how to respect talents and sincerity in a man of an opposite persuasion. Calvin's bust is shewn at Paris in the Museum of French Monuments, as that of one who has done distinguished honor to the country.

It was about half past six when I awoke. I found we were coming down the side of a hill, which was covered with vineyards.

The vines were low, and looked like French beans at first. We soon arrived at Compiègne, beautifully situated on the banks of the river Oise. As we passed along the side of the forest, we saw hundreds of squirrels running about the foot of the trees, and enjoying themselves in perfect security.

We went on to La Croix St. Ouen to breakfast, and had the pleasure of seeing that that meal, which in former days in our own country was composed of meat and strong beer, was still not trifled with amongst our neighbours. The priest ordered veal cutlets, and half a bottle of wine, and seemed much to enjoy so substantial a repast. The worthy landlady would receive nothing from him, but she reimbursed herself by a double charge on her two English guests. The pleasant and agreeable old gentleman had however no hand in that. His dress was coarse, indicating the extreme poverty in which the clergy are kept. He wore on his breast a cross of St. Louis, which is a privilege very easily granted, and is sought not unfrequently by those, who by such a display of loyalty hope to forward their

views of promotion. The reverend gentleman informed us, he was going to Paris to apply for a pension, as he had lost much property by the revolution. I hope he had success, at the same time the government is so poor at present, that many meritorious persons must submit to very severe privations.

We dined at Senlis. At this place we had several instances of the petty attempts at cheating, too general in France. In adding up our bill, they made it a franc more than they ought. We had paid for inside places, yet the conducteur came to us wishing to persuade us to sit outside with him, saying the air was pleasant, &c. We declined it, and he then wished us to go in a one horse cabriolet. The seat was not so good as what we had, but we consented. They then told us when we were about to set off, it was usual to pay 10 francs each at Paris, for conducteur, &c. but when we demurred to do so, after what we had already given, they said 2 francs each would do. When we were a little way from the inn, the driver wished to take in more passengers, but as three persons were quite enough for

a poor horse over a paved road, we would not allow him. With all this there was a civility of manner, that was not displeasing; and not the least vexation or shame was manifested at not succeeding.

I may here remark, that in this town, as well as in almost every town I was in throughout the journey through France, bills were stuck up, informing the public of the judgment passed upon some persons for seditious cries and expressions.

We were now coming near Paris, but saw nothing in the appearance of the country to indicate that a great capital was nigh. There was not one vehicle for thirty usually met on a London road. Close to the very suburbs, there were no country houses or ornamented grounds, but open cultivated fields without hedges. We had a visit at the barriers from a douanier, who finding we were English, and therefore knowing the almost impossibility of our having brought any thing contraband so far, did not trouble himself to examine our luggage. He however looked into the cabriolet, to see that we had no gunpowder. This they invari-

ably do to all vehicles. We then went forward, and took up our residence in the great capital of pleasure. I may here therefore conclude this letter.

I am,

&c. &c.

LETTER XXIII.

MY DEAR SIR,

As you and all the world are so well acquainted with the principal objects of curiosity at Paris, I hope I shall be excused if I decline attempting to give you any account of them. There is enough to occupy volumes, and many volumes have been written on the subject. There being so much to amuse, in spending the time at Paris, and so many gratifications at an easy rate, the idle of all countries are attracted to it, as to their proper home. An old Swiss gentleman at the hotel I put up at, had come to Paris ten years ago to reside a month, but he has never yet left it since, and probably never will. There are many in a similar situation.

The great public library open to whoever will enter and read; the Botanic garden stored with plants of all climates, with beasts and birds; the Museum of French Monu-

ments; the Museum of Natural History and lectures by able professors, open to all the world, furnish occupation to the studious and scientific. The garden of the Thuilleries and of the Luxembourg, and the walks on the Boulevards, or in the Champs Elysées, at once furnish health, and amusement to the young and to the old. Theatres of every sort, the Palais Royal, coffee houses in which are music and singing, gardens for refreshments, where are rope dancing and other attractions, the garden of Tivoli for dancing, fire-works, &c.; gardens for puppet shows; and dancing in various parts of the town, afford a more active enjoyment for every rank of the people. Amusement seems the chief business. The government takes care to procure every thing to keep the mind from politics. Let a man avoid that topic, and in what may he not indulge? A very pleasant, and at the same time innocent and cheap amusement, much in favor with the Parisians, is to walk on the Boulevards of an evening. All the world seems to be there. A party comes and sits down on the chairs that are standing on each side,

and pay a penny a chair. They remain as long as they please, an hour or two hours, they breathe the open air, and converse together, or with those who happen to be near, and look at the passing crowd.

The Paris theatres are numerous, and are always kept open. They are no way comparable in elegance or grandeur to Covent Garden or Drury Lane. The French ideas of unity of place occasion the same scene to be presented to the eye during the whole performance. Our countrymen yawn out the time, but in vain seek for varied gratification to the eye, or for the mental enjoyment produced by the unrivalled talents of an O'Neill. The French have no right to look for the same refinement and delicacy of feeling, from the treatment shewn to their distinguished female performers; whilst in England, people of the first rank and talents in the country vie in private society, in offering every mark of respect and esteem to extraordinary merit.

There is a reading-room at a bookseller's in the Rue Vivienne, with English newspapers on the ministerial side, and also reviews and magazines. An English news-

paper is also published at Paris by this bookseller.

In viewing the great public buidings and institutions, and in mingling in the world, and becoming for a while, as far as propriety would admit, a real Parisian, there was enough to occupy the whole time that I chose to remain. The Ecole Militaire is shut up and the pupils dismissed, so that it was not to be seen. The great Hotel des Invalids, which may fairly be compared to our Greenwich Hospital, though I do not think superior, is open, as usual, but the most interesting part, the models of most of the fortresses in Europe, is not to be viewed, but by making interest in a higher quarter than a stranger will generally think it worth the trouble to attempt. The Prussians when they were at Paris, very properly destroyed all the models that were there of Prussian fortresses, that the French might have no aid from them, if ever they should have again to besiege their towns. The beautiful gardens of the Luxembourg are open, but the palace is shut. The pictures were removing to the gallery of the Louvre. That collection of the works of

art will be again opened for public admission, when the naked walls are once more adorned.

The same attention is shewn to gratify the curiosity of strangers that has always characterised the French nation. At Versailles, at Grand and Petit Trianon, and at St. Cloud are servants in the royal livery, to shew the apartments and gardens of these palaces. They are attentive, and though they accept any remuneration offered them, make no display of demanding it. Our countrymen are frequently seen at these places.

In going from one public place to another, where there is just reason to expect to see the equipages of the French nobility and gentry, an Englishman is surprised that scarcely any make their appearance. I do not know that I saw above ten or twelve in a whole day. Few large fortunes, compared with England or Holland, are possessed by individuals, and in the innumerable revolutions which have taken place within the last twenty-five years, prudence may have dictated the propriety of avoiding all unnecessary display of wealth. The

hackney coaches with two horses, and with one, are far more numerous than in London. I have seen numbers nearly as high as 3000. They are kept very clean and comfortable. For one fare, if it should be from one end of Paris to another, the charge is a franc and a half: if engaged by time, the charge is two francs the first hour, and a franc and a half every hour after. If a person mean to make several calls, it is best to shew the driver his watch and pay by the time; otherwise for every stoppage there would be a fresh fare of a franc and a half. The drivers are extremely civil. The narrowness of the streets, their dirtiness, and want of a footpath, render walking in winter and in wet weather, next to impossible for females. This is one main cause of the number of coaches.

Religion is but little in vogue at present. In the church of Notre Dame des Victoires, I counted about eighty people on Sunday between ten and eleven. There were five or six priests employed in the service. In fact, how can the churches be full, when the people are employed either in business or in diversion. Very many of the shops

are kept open, and if they have not the shutters down, the door is open, and people are in the way to sell, if required.

The national guard is generally exercised on Sunday, during the time of the morning service, and then parades through the towns in the provinces, with music and colours flying. These corps consist of the principal men of property. Their helmets, arms, accoutrements, and uniforms are very beautiful.

I went in one day, and saw the baptism service performed in the cathedral of Notre Dame. Several of the party were engaged in gallantry and intrigue, the priest read the services with a velocity not to be surpassed, and it was hard to say whether he or the people manifested less respect for what they were engaged in. Things will perhaps improve in this respect, and there is much need of it. As for the Sunday afternoon, it has, from time immemorial, been devoted to amusement. Theatres, public gardens, &c. are then more frequented than ever. That is pretty much the case in all Catholic countries.

There are three * Protestant churches ; I attended divine service at that of St. Joseph, in the Rue St. Honoré. It was quite full of people, who sat on chairs regularly arranged in rows. A young man in the desk read part of the service, and the clergyman in the pulpit read the rest. He wore a Presbyterian gown and bands. There was a good organ. The preacher spoke extempore, and was very animated in his delivery ; he commanded the attention of his audience. The service began at twelve and ended before two. I was told by the Swiss gentleman already mentioned, who regularly attends, that there was no other service the whole week.

In this church I saw several men in genteel military uniforms, with two epaulettes, and was happy to think there were French officers so religious. On making inquiry, I found they belonged to the " Cent Suisses," who are employed about the palace, and are near the King's coach in state processions, like the English *beefeaters*.

* Eustace's Letter.

There is a considerable number of our countrymen at Paris, but I do not believe that they amount to one-third of what is usually stated ; and I know no one abroad who does not agree with me. Our newspapers are full of very unfounded lamentations on this head. The French police might easily state the number, but if it be the interest of the French to encourage Englishmen to come over, they are not very likely to diminish the attraction, by contradicting exaggerated statements. Of those who come over, the greater part gratify their curiosity and return. Few will permanently settle unless compelled by "*res angustæ domi*." The main secret of living economically is lowering the rank and style of living amongst strangers, below what the feelings of individuals would allow them to do at home. Hence it is that these persons applaud as cheap, at Brussels and Paris, articles which might be had for less perhaps in the neighbourhood of Grosvenor Square, but which they are too proud to search out in London. Hence also the exaggerated reports that are spread in foreign countries by such persons, of the

enormous expense of every thing in England. They do not know at what prices they may be got at home. It is nevertheless undoubtedly true, that *travelling* is very cheap compared with England, where it is systematically rendered extravagant without bounds. Persons who transfer their property from the English to the French funds, get in France nearly nine per cent. for their money. They ought to recollect what has been done in days not long past, and that the present Government is poor enough to condescend to borrow 50 francs, or about 2*l.* sterling.

The expense of living at Paris varies so much, and is so different in different places, that it is not easy to say any thing satisfactory on the subject. In some hotels they charge for lodging nine francs a night, in others nearly the same accommodation may be had for two francs, or even a franc and a half. It is usual to breakfast at the hotel, and to dine abroad at a *table d'Hôte*, or at a *restaurateur's*. These are more expensive to strangers than similar houses in London. To do nature any justice at all, one cannot have a dinner as a *restaurateur's*

under half a crown, or three shillings. That is not much for a few times, but it cannot be called cheap living to most people, to give at the rate of 46*l.* or 54*l.* a year, for dinners only. Wine is at a reasonable price. Burgundy is about a shilling a bottle at a *restaurateur's*, within the town, and about 7 *d.* without the barriers. That is very cheap, yet English beer is for the support of nature just as good, and when wine gets as familiar as beer, there seems but very little difference. In malt liquor at all events, we excell all places where I have been, both as to quality and cheapness, and if Britons have sense enough to prefer the product of their own soil, their pocket will be saved and their health benefited. I do not find, that the body of the people live so well, as they do in England. Things are cheaper, but wages are much less. Working tradesmen, I have already in a former letter shewn, have no temptation to go to Flanders, if they can find employment at home. In fact, I learn that many have left London, and after making the experiment, both in Belgium and in Paris, have been glad to return. A tailor

at Paris may earn 2s. a-day, at London he gets 6s. What is true with respect to them, holds equally true with respect to all persons who derive their support from their own personal exertions. Residence abroad can, therefore, be no advantage, but to persons of fixed and independent incomes, who settling in a town, and adopting the mode of living of the country, may contrive to support themselves at an easy expense.

Foreigners in general have an extravagant idea of the expense required to live in England. I have been often told, I could not get a breakfast in England under two shillings. The little scrap they bring up for a beef-steak at Paris, for which they charge 9d., they have told me would cost 3s. in London. As much could be got for 6d. I have been told that a bottle of wine would cost in England 12s. or 14s. We get one for 5s. There is in general, an absurd idea of the unbounded expense of living in England, and that has the effect of deterring foreigners from travelling amongst us. A Hollander or Belgian goes to travel in France, seldom to England, except on

business. This tends to keep foreigners unacquainted with us, and prevents that cordiality of attachment towards us, which, the intercourse of travelling, would most naturally produce.

If foreigners, in general, are deterred from coming to see us, it is desirable, that by reading our Newspapers, they should know our real character. I am sorry to say, that the expense of the English Newspapers, greatly tends to prevent their Continental circulation. I have often heard foreigners complain, how dear they are. A Daily Newspaper abroad costs about 3*l.* per annum. A London Daily Paper costs 9*l.* Six pounds a year difference is a great sum to a foreigner, and costs as much labour to acquire, as 12*l.* or 15*l.* would with us. In addition there is a heavy postage to pay for conveyance. No wonder then, they are unwilling to purchase our papers. To men of fortune these considerations may appear insignificant; but men of fortune are but a small part of the community in any country, and abroad generally are a smaller proportion than amongst ourselves. Besides, men of inferior rank to them, are

often more thinking, and perhaps, on the whole, have more influence in determining and fixing national feelings and opinions.

The clergy, lawyers and physicians, professors in colleges, public teachers, private tutors, authors, editors of newspapers and magazines, &c. guide the opinions of every class of the community, more than all the lords and landholders of the country put together. It is a great misfortune to us, that so few foreigners come amongst us, or can afford to know the great and humane principles of our national policy, by a regular perusal of our Journals. I know not how I have been led astray to this subject, and I shall here drop it.

You will ask me is there to be nothing of party politics? Is there to be a letter in which Paris is the chief subject, and nothing of its late ruler? I answer nothing at all — If you demand the reason, it is because I have no more to tell you, than you already know. Every body, as far as I could judge, is very cautious of speaking on the subject. No one dare use the epithet "*Imperial*." If you even order the coachman to drive to the "*Ecole Imperiale*

Militaire," he will answer "*Oui, M. a l'Ecole Royale Militaire*," lest by implication, he should be proved dis-loyal. If you demand if a pillar or fountain was constructed "*par l'Empereur*," he will answer, perhaps with pleasure on his countenance, "*Oui M. par Bonaparte*," he will not say "*Napoleon*," or "*l'Empereur*." It is every where the same. Every one is cautious of what he says, and how is a stranger to get at the private sentiments of the wise and prudent, when even the lowest of the people, the very men who receive his money, and who will act in subserviency as the meanest slaves, cautiously guard against him as a spy of the police? At the palace of Grand Trianon near Versailles, I asked the servant who shewed us the apartments, if the apartment we were then in, had been that of the Empress Marie Louise? His reply was, "*Je ne sçais pas de tout, M. mais c'est l'appartement de Madame la Duchesse d'Angouleme a present*." The bridge of Jena and the bridge of Austerlitz are still the usual names, notwithstanding the royal decree to please the allies, and strangers

compliment the French, by asking for them by these names. It is quite loyal to use them. I shall drop this subject, and conclude this letter with assurances that,

I am,

My dear Sir,

Yours, &c.

LETTER XXIV.

MY DEAR SIR,

THE subject of taxation to which this letter is to be devoted, you will not consider a departure from the resolution laid down in the preceding, to avoid all party politics. In our own country we all know very well, the taxes are the work of all parties, and whoever are in or out of power, taxation goes on. It has been so these two hundred years. It is so in France. The imperial government made very heavy demands; the Bourbon Princes rather hastily promised to lessen the burdens; they soon found it impossible. The return from Elba, even if it had not terminated as it did, would not have lessened the pressure. It has prodigiously increased it. In the year 1815 the amount levied on the subjects much exceeded that of 1814, and in 1816 the pressure is fully as severe as ever. Such have been the effects of the European wars.

To whatever quarter the traveller directs his course, it is ever the same. The Kingdom of the Netherlands, rescued from the power of France, complains of its new burthens; the departments along the Rhine, which have received the Prussian in room of the Imperial Eagle, lament over the increase of their contributions; but if they turn their eyes to their late brethren, they will see, that on being dissevered from France, they have escaped a debt and an amount of taxation, which would have been severer still. A short analysis of the French budget for this year may perhaps be interesting.

A very large proportion of the whole sum raised, comes *directly* from REAL and MOVEABLE PROPERTY. France is a great agricultural country; her Customs and Excise would produce but a small sum compared with England. From fixt or real property, the amount of the sum to be levied this year amounts to 258,198,000 of francs, which is about five sixteenths of the whole taxes. The farmers say, that this tax sweeps away the full fifth part of their produce. It is to be borne in mind, that they have no longer

tythes to pay ; and with their present feelings, they would much rather support the army than the church. It falls therefore no heavier on the land, than if one-tenth of the produce was levied on the English farmer. The great recommendation of this tax is this, that it is laid upon an article, the value of which cannot be concealed ; that its amount falls but little short of what it is calculated at ; and that the expence of collecting it is but very small. It does not, like many taxes, take a great deal from the pockets of the subjects, and bring but little into the treasury.

In order to view more clearly the mode of levying the taxes, and the various expences of Government, it will be advantageous to call to mind the manner in which the kingdom of France is divided. Formerly, it was into provinces, some of which were of a most inconvenient extent. In each province was a provincial parliament for laying on taxes, making laws, and also trying causes. This arrangement was inconvenient. The parliaments were, one by one, easily managed by the minister ; and the union of the legislative and judicial

▲ ▲

powers was particularly objectionable. A want of uniformity in the laws, judicial proceedings, and taxes, in different parts of the kingdom, was injurious to the subject, and no way beneficial to the Government.

The present division into departments, each about the size of an ordinary English county, is universally allowed to be better. Of these, eighty-seven still belong to France, after abandoning all her conquests. Each department is subdivided into districts, not unlike English hundreds, of which, in some departments are two only, in others three, in most there are four, and in some five. These districts are again subdivided into communes. At the head of each department is the Prefect, who is an officer of great importance, and with a handsome salary. His powers comprehend the military duties of a British lord-lieutenant, and the civil duties of a sheriff in preserving the peace; and he has also to assist in the levying of the taxes. To guide him in the measures adopted for the local interests of the department, he has a council of from sixteen to twenty-four members. A budget

of all the expences of the department must be returned to Government.

To assist the Prefect, there is a Sub-prefect over each *arrondissement* or district, who has also a council. Over each commune there is a Mayor, who is assisted by a council of from ten to thirty members. This officer has no salary; but, as he has the management of all the money raised for the use of the commune, he is supposed to be well paid for his trouble. Very many are anxious to obtain the situation.

The amount to be raised, being fixed by Government, and passed into a law, the sum for each department is calculated from the valuation of property, as it stands in the King's books. The Prefect and the council of the department divide the sum among the districts, and the Sub-prefect and the district council, divide it among the communes. The commune must raise the sum required. I leave it to the numerous opponents of our Income Tax, to point out the disadvantages which they see in this mode of producing a large revenue from the land.

The tax upon personal and moveable property to be levied this year, amounts to

40,933,500 francs. It is divided among the departments, districts, and communes, in the same manner as the tax on real property.

The tax upon doors and windows, divided in the same manner, amounts to 20,627,000 francs.

The tax on patents for professions, trades, &c. which is of the same nature as that in the Netherlands, is calculated to produce 33,992,700 francs.

These are the four direct taxes of the French system of finance, and yield altogether 353,751,200 francs, amounting to seven-sixteenths of the whole.

Another article upon which a very large sum is raised, is from duties attending the registering of all matters which in any shape come before the courts, for registering mortgages, marriages, wills, sales of property, &c. &c. also for stamped paper. The duties on registering are represented by a writer against the Imperial Government, who was once a functionary*, as vexatious and oppressive, and as being

* Faber.

purely a measure of finance, the register being of little or no use. If these observations were true respecting the tax under the Emperor, they are so still. At the present moment, there is dire necessity pressing on the Government, and for all the unpopular taxes, the King may fairly be allowed to plead with a sad heart,

“*Res duræ et novitas regni me talia cogunt.*” VIRG.

Amongst the most unpleasant of the duties in registering, is that of 3 per cent. where a husband makes over his real property to his wife during his life, or leaves it to her at his death. Between brothers and sisters, and relations in general, it is 5 per cent. Between all other persons it is 7 per cent.

For personal property the sum levied, when for relations, is $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., when for persons not related $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

The tax raised from stamped paper, whatever may be its amount, at least takes a very wide sweep, and omits nothing which can in any way be touched. It must in many cases be both “frivolous and vexatious,” and as soon as the dire necessity,

which at present bears all before it, shall have been removed, this tax is the first which requires being modified. The newspapers of course are subject to it. All bills stuck up in the streets must be on stamped and coloured paper. All other notices may be on white paper, but it must be stamped. If a tradesman have a bill of articles sold in his shop, it must be on stamped paper. Even his card of address must have a stamp. Bills given away in the streets have a stamp. More than all this, it has been passed into a law this year, that the tradesman's account books, his day-book, ledger, &c. must have a stamp on every leaf. He must enter the articles he sells, to ascertain the amount of his sale, in order to calculate the tax for his patent, and it must be on stamped paper. He cannot bring any book or memorandum to prove a debt, or as an evidence in his favor in any way, unless it be made up of stamped paper. I found at Paris the shopkeepers using their old books, but there were no new books without stamps; they told me, they must get the old books stamped, and pay a penalty, before they

could bring them into court. It is so by the law. This is going closely to work ; and, as I conceive, farther than our statesmen would like to attempt.

The amount of all these duties for registering, stamps, &c. together with the rents of the royal domains, produce 140,000,000 francs. In the year 1814, the produce was 87,021,741 francs.

The sale of wood from the royal forests is expected to produce 20,000,000 francs. In 1814, nearly 27,000,000 francs were obtained. Wood is used for firing at Paris, and they say, that to promote the sale from the King's forests, the canal, which would bring coals from the North, is retarded in its completion. Perhaps, poverty is more likely to be the cause.

The duties on salt produce 35,000,000 francs. Lotteries, the post-office, salt-pits, &c. produce 29,000,000. With regard to the lottery, I beg to notice, that neither in the Netherlands, nor in France, did I observe any of those puffing and nefarious schemes to allure adventurers, which are so scandalously practised in London.

Of what are called indirect contributions,

as duties on wine, perry, cyder, brandy, liqueurs, beer, also the duties from persons who retail the same, the amount is 67,000,000 francs. The regulations for collecting this tax are numerous, and of necessity are vexatious. The tax gatherer is an unwelcome visitant at any time, the exciseman is worse. There is enough of this in England, we need not cross the channel for information on the nature of the case.

The Custom-house duties in 1815, produced 25,000,000 francs. They are calculated to yield 40,000,000 this year, of which 20,000,000 are the ordinary duties, and 20,000,000 are the extraordinary on account of the Army of Occupation, &c. They of course calculated on a falling off of trade, otherwise 50,000,000 francs would have been the amount.

Tobacco in 1815 brought in 40,000,000 francs, and this year it is calculated to yield 38,000,000 francs. Thus between tobacco, and wine, spirits, and beer, the amount will be 105,000,000 francs, which in 1814 was 61,000,000 francs. That is a great increase of the duty.

I have in a former letter told you of the tobacco raised in Holland. I had no opportunity of seeing any tobacco plantations in France, but I understand a great deal is grown. The cultivators are under great restrictions, and are bound to make a return of the quantities raised. I shall quote some of the laws respecting it. "The purchase, the manufacture, and the sale of tobacco, shall continue to have place, by the administration of indirect contributions, throughout the whole extent of the kingdom, exclusively for the profit of the state. *"

"Tobacco manufactured in foreign countries, from whatever country it may come, shall be prohibited admission into the kingdom, unless purchased for the administration."

"The price of manufactured tobacco, which the administration shall sell to the consumers, shall not exceed the following, viz.

* Budget de 1816.

	Fr.	Cent.
For the kilogramme* of the first quality of every sort	- 11	20
For the kilogramme of the second quality of every sort	- 7	20
For the segar	- 0	5"

The 5 centimes amount to a half-penny.

" There shall also be manufactured a kind of tobacco called *Cantine*, the price of which shall not exceed 4 francs the kilogramme."

" The Administration is authorised to sell to the consumers, foreign tobacco of every sort; the price shall be determined by ordonnances of the King."

" The Administration is equally authorized to sell to the chemists, to the proprietors of cattle, and to veterinary surgeons, the indigenous leaves at the price of the cantine tobacco."

I believe a good deal of tobacco is smuggled in France. Our soldiers at Cambray and Valenciennes, when I inquired, told me, they could get it in the villages, but durst not bring it into the town for

* The kilogramme contains 15436 grains troy, or 2 lbs. 8 oz. 3 dts. 4 grs.

fear of their own officers, and of the douaniers.

These are the sources of revenue in France, and they are carried as far as the country can bear. As a proof of this, I need only mention, that the tax on real property is 50 per cent. higher, than in the time of the Emperor; the tax on personal property, and on doors and windows is 60 per cent. higher, and the tax on patents is 115 per cent. higher, which is more than double. On the patents 110 per cent. is the addition for 1816; on the doors and windows 50 per cent, is for 1816, and also 10 per cent. additional on personal property. On the former produce of these taxes, they used to allow one-fiftieth for deficits in collection, but for this new increase they calculate on a loss of *one-tenth*, from inability to pay!*

Notwithstanding all this rise in the taxes, the produce is not enough to meet the current expenses of the year, and many shifts are resorted to, in order to obtain money, which resemble those of a desperate spendthrift, or of a tradesman making his

Budget de 1816.

last effort to keep his name from the Gazette. Some of these shall now be noticed.

The communes in France were often in possession of property, from which in part, they defrayed their local expenses. That property the Government has sold to the amount of about 23,000,000 francs. Such things were sometimes done by the Imperial government, with the promise of paying to the communes the annual rent. Lands, &c. at present fetch a low price, and selling them therefore is a spendthrift expedient; but this, alas! necessity, cruel necessity compels.

The national domains, in a similar manner yield this year 8,000,000 francs. The wood sold already, as an extraordinary measure of finance, amounts to nearly 13,000,000 francs.

It would have been desirable this year, if a large loan could have been raised, but that is nearly impracticable. In 1815, they raised 35,510,000 francs, which entail a burden on each succeeding year of 3,500,000 francs, being about 10 per cent. for the money. In fact, even now it would be borrowing at nearly 9 per cent. to raise by

loan; the 5 per cents. being about 57, instead of 100; and yet 5, or 6,000,000 francs must be raised in the way of loan, at that rate. The Government is not proud, for it will borrow as low as 50 francs from any man, and give him a credit in his own name in the *grand livre*, to an amount according to the current price of stock. I called at the banking-house of Perregaux, with a friend, who went to invest a few hundreds in the French funds. The clerk in the English office told him, on enquiry being made, that the interest was payable half-yearly, but he could not expect it next time of payment; but at the second time of payment, he would come in, though probably instead of March it would be May before the dividend was forth-coming. It would after that be every six months, though perhaps, the payment might be delayed a month or two. It is no wonder then, when these things are so, and when men recollect how the French nation, not many years ago robbed its creditors, that 9 per cent. must be given for money. The wonder is, that they can borrow money at all.

What then is to be done?—The taxes

will yield no more; and nobody will lend on favorable terms. No better plan has occurred, than to compel a loan, from those persons who derive emoluments from the taxes and expenditure; which is done under the plausible colouring of taking securities. All the collectors of taxes, direct and indirect, those employed in the excise, in the tobacco manufacture, and in the custom-houses; all the paymasters in the departments, in the military divisions, and at the sea-ports, the registers, &c. in the courts; in short, all who have government-money passing through their hands, are required, according to a fixed tarif, to advance a certain sum of money to Government. Persons who previous to this year had advanced a "*cautionnement*," or security, are now required to advance a "*supplement*," which is nearly one half of the sum formerly advanced. Persons who enter this year into office, must furnish a sum equal in amount to both these together. The amount to be thus raised this year is 50,633,000 francs. The interest to be paid for this money is 4 per cent. instead of 9, which it would have been in the common way. The Go-

vernment stands bound to refund the money, when it shall be convenient ; but as they pay a higher rate of interest to their other creditors, it is not very likely that this security-money will be the first to be paid off. The persons holding such situations in every country, as a matter of course, are not popular; and it may appear to the thoughtless rabble very fair to fleece them ; but a prudent man must see, that it is withdrawing 50,633,000 francs of capital from the agriculture and commerce of the country. Besides, these men must be paid some way or other—by fair means or foul. The conscience of a collector who has paid a large sum for his place, cannot be expected to be over delicate ; nor can his superiors have the face to look too narrowly into what he has done.

Every body feels the distress, and to do the functionaries justice, from the King at their head, all the way down to the Sub-lieutenant in the army, or to the civil functionary who does not receive more than 500 francs, or 20*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* there is a reduction of salary. The scale of reduc-

tion of salary begins at 1 per cent. on the lowest amount of salary, and proceeds gradually, increasing to 2, to 3, to 4, and so on up to as much as 33 per cent. on those holding the most lucrative situations. If a person holds two places, he gives up half the salary of the lower place to relieve the public distress; if he hold a third place, he receives but a fourth part of the usual salary of that place. That is an example set on the other side of the water, which it is to be hoped our wealthy countrymen who hold places under government, and who are so fond of importing French customs, will be particularly careful to imitate. We want a little relief, as well as our late foes.

The French appear to be taxed severely enough, and to the full amount of their ability to pay. Their public taxes are nearly all their burdens. The roads are maintained from the public taxes, and so are the institutions for the administration of justice, so that they have no tolls and county-rates to pay, as in England. There are also no poor-rates. The poor chiefly depend upon voluntary charity; but there

are hospitals in many places for the reception of the aged and disabled, maintained by a voluntary collection made from house to house, and by a part of the produce of the *Octroi*, or duty collected from provisions, &c. at the gate of a town. The *Octroi* is sometimes pretty high. Hospitals for the sick, Lying-in-hospitals and Foundling-hospitals, on a most liberal plan of admission, are also maintained out of the taxes. The clergy, also, are paid from them. Hence, their taxes, which, in the whole, amount this year to about thirty-five millions sterling, are not so oppressive, as if they had, also, the other burdens to pay, as toll for the roads, county-rates, poor-rates, and tythes, as in England.

125,500,000 francs of the money received, go to pay the interest of the national debt. Other 8,000,000 francs pay the interest of the money advanced, as securities, by the collectors, &c. The expenses, under the head of war, are calculated at 180,000,000 francs.

The Marine is estimated at 48,000,000 francs. Perhaps, a tolerable idea may be formed of the relative importance of the

principal sea-ports, from the sums required as securities from the paymasters.

Brest	-	-	60,800 francs
Toulon	-	-	60,800
Rochfort	-	-	56,000
Bordeaux	-	-	48,000
L'Orient	-	-	44,800
Le Havre	-	-	38,720
Cherbourg	-	-	32,000
Dunkerque	-	-	27,520
Nantes	-	-	25,600
St. Servan	-	-	16,000

In 1814, for the civil list were required 15,510,000 francs ; in 1815, not less than 25,000,000. This year, the King, after giving up out of the civil list, 10,000,000 francs, which are applied to the relief of the departments which have suffered from the invasion, retains 15,000,000, or 625,000*l.* sterling. The Royal Family have besides amongst them 9,000,000 francs, or 375,000*l.* This seems to be quite enough.

The salaries of the Chamber of Peers, and of the chamber of Deputies are a deplorable proof, either of the poverty, or want of public spirit in the nation. I think you will join with me in expressions of

contempt for such legislators. The evil is much diminished. In 1814, the Imperial Senate, which, after the abdication, became the Chamber of Peers, cost 3,000,000 francs, or 125,000*l.* sterling. Can a House of Lords require this money, or if they do not require it, are they mean enough to be seen taking it? In 1815, the cost was much the same, 2,927,000 francs. This year it is, 2,000,000, or about 83,000*l.*

In 1814, the Corps Legislatif, which was afterwards called the Chamber of Deputies, cost 3,500,000 francs. In 1815, this was reduced to 2,455,000 francs. This year the sum is only 700,000, or about 29,000*l.* sterling. So much for a House of Commons. Members on a public salary of about 70*l.* each, or 27*s.* a week, the wages of a journeyman carpenter in London *!!! A defender of this system may tell us, that members cannot be got with-

* In the Budget proposed for 1817, it is intended to allow 100,000 francs more to the Chamber of Deputies, "experience having proved the insufficiency of the former allowance!!" The Chamber being reduced from 420 to 260 members, each will have about 128*l.* salary.

out it, that it is easy to "call spirits from the vasty deep," but they will not come when we do call them. Perhaps, they will not, whilst the members are chosen by a select electoral college, and not by the body of the people. But, let the elective franchise be extended, so as to embrace, at least, the middle classes of society ; and let the election be conducted with the spirit and freedom, and with the pomp, glory, and parade of an English election, and there is little doubt, but French gentlemen will become animated with a desire to represent their departments. When the elections shall be so conducted as to make the great body of the people look upon the members as identified with themselves, the Chamber will then possess a proper influence in the Constitution, and it will not be in the power of the Crown to new-model it, or reduce it at pleasure. It will, perhaps, be said, the French people are not to be trusted with such power in elections. I can only reply, that if that be the case, all attempts at a resemblance to the British Constitution can produce but a mere form, without its spirit and soul.

The heaviest article of expenditure is that produced by the Army of Occupation. 140,000,000 francs are paid in money ; and the expense of maintenance is estimated at 130,000,000 francs more. I was told by a Commissary, with whom I travelled, that from the dearth of corn, hay, cattle, &c. the amount would greatly exceed the estimate. That is another difficulty for the government to meet.

I have only to add, that I heartily pity both the government and people, in which feeling, you will no doubt participate. We are no longer at war, and without offence, we may wish them well.

I am,

My Dear Sir,

Yours, &c.

Note—As the Budget for 1817, has been submitted to the Chamber of Deputies, before sending the above to the Press, I shall, in a few words, point out the chief difference between it, and that of 1816. Whilst the Government of the Netherlands has been enabled to reduce its expenditure, that of France is greatly increased. The Ordinary Expenses, instead of 548,252,520 francs are estimated at 646,430,000, francs. There are 83,051,000 francs, of arrears of former years, and

B B 3

23,000,000 of old Treasury bills, which the holders refuse to renew. There is likewise a considerable increase in the expense of the Army of Occupation; so that the whole amount to be raised in 1817, is estimated at 1,088,291,957 francs, or about 45,000,000*l.* sterling. This is an immense increase. To replace some sources of revenue which have failed, and to help to raise the sum required, it is proposed—to subject persons formerly exempt, to the tax on patents; to increase the tax on doors and windows, and that on moveable property; to increase the duties on wines, oils, and on registering. There will still remain an immense deficiency to be made up by a loan. It is, therefore, proposed to authorise the Minister to borrow as much as will require an annual interest of 30,000,000 francs. To induce monied men to come forward, it is proposed to increase the annual sinking fund, from 20,000,000 to 40,000,000 francs; and also, to add to the same fund, the produce of the sale of 150,000 hectares or 375,000 acres of wood. Will the temptation of 10 per cent. for their money overcome the fear of losing the whole?

LETTER XXV.

MY DEAR SIR,

HAVING seen enough of the pleasures and follies of Paris, and being loth to remain there longer, lest I should experience it a *Capua*, to disqualify me for future exertion, I took my place in the diligence for Rouen. The six inside places being full, I had to sit in what is called the Cabriolet, in the fore-part of the coach, on the same level with the others, and looking down on the horses. My fellow-passengers were an agreeable lady of Normandy, and her daughter of about fourteen. The young lady spoke a little English, which is an accomplishment which begins to be fashionable at Paris.

The road is excellent ; and the hardness of the soil frequently renders paving unnecessary. On each side, for the greater part of the way, is a row of apple trees. They furnish a sourish apple for making cyder.

B B 4

No land is left uncultivated ; there are no hedges ; and the farm-houses are in villages.

There was no delay in changing horses, and we went almost as rapidly forward as in England. At twelve, we stopped to what some called "*dejeuner a la fourchette*," but others more properly "*diner*." It is the only meal allowed on the road, from five in the morning to five in the afternoon, when the coach arrives at Rouen.

That city appears beautiful, even after seeing Paris. Its situation on the banks of the Seine, with lofty hills around it, in its immediate vicinity, is somewhat romantic. The population is nearly 90,000. Trade and manufactures are carried on with a spirit that rivals that of England. It was painful to learn that here, as well as at Ghent in the Netherlands, English capital and English experience had introduced and carried on the cotton-manufacture, to the injury of our own country. There is a fine bridge across the Seine, built upon floating barges, which rise and sink with the tide. About eighty or one hundred vessels lay along the quay,

and the bustle of carts, of porters, of the rolling of casks, &c. indicated the activity of commerce.

At Rouen, the diligences from Paris drive into what was formerly a church, and the office is held in a recess where formerly was an altar. Most of the other churches are converted in the same way to some ignoble purpose. The great cathedral remains in its ancient glory of Gothic architecture. It is truly grand. In the morning between eight and nine, I counted the number of people, and found about eighty at their devotions. A small number indeed for such a town and church! There were but few candles burning, for the devotees appeared to be poor.

In Belgium and along the Rhine, the churches were a never-failing source of enjoyment, in the admiration of the buildings themselves, of their statues, pictures, monuments, and other ornaments. In France few of these are now to be seen. Even Notre Dame at Paris has but little interesting, excepting its huge, gigantic walls. The popular fury in the time of the revolution, cleared all the ornaments away, and the

poverty and indifference of the present age do not care about trying to replace them. The Government, guided by that spirit which studies to render Paris a point of attraction at the expense of the provinces, had the monuments which remained, and the broken fragments collected, and deposited them in one museum at Paris.

At the hotel at Rouen, the floors, instead of brick, as I had hitherto found them in France, consisted of stone ; and I had a carpet in my bed-room, such as it was.

The coach for Dieppe set out at twelve, and arrived at six. I had paid 12 francs for my place to Rouen, and was charged 3 francs more for conducteur and postilions. I paid 8 francs to Dieppe, and 2 for conducteur and postilions ; so that the whole expense from Paris to the coast was only 25 francs, being rather less than what was given for a pound note. The annual examination for the prizes had taken place at the college at Rouen two days before, and one of the successful candidates was travelling with us in his blue uniform ; and he brought with him the two crowns of oak which had been put upon his head. His friends came

to meet him a mile from the town, and were much and justly delighted with the honors he had acquired.

The Brighton packet being to sail at two in the morning, it was of no use to go to bed. The town of Dieppe did not tempt me to walk over it; but I was much gratified by the beauty of the harbour, and of the white chalk cliffs. I saw about twelve at night many douaniers on the watch, to guard against smuggling. They must be extremely numerous in the whole throughout France.

Being about to leave France, I beg to offer my testimony of the amiable and polite character of the people. I never met with any instance of rudeness; and uniformly experienced every polite attention which I could have desired. It is a sacred duty we owe our late enemies, to speak well of them where they deserve it.

A short passage of twelve hours brought us off Brighton; but as the sea ran high, no boat would come off to us. We therefore run for Newhaven; and happily got in before the tide was gone out. The English custom-house officers were just as

civil as those of foreign countries ; they did their duty faithfully, but mildly. It was easy to get along the coast to Brighton, and still more easy to get from thence to London, as nineteen or twenty coaches set out every day.

This concludes my journey, of which I have endeavoured to give you the particulars. Your superior judgment will, no doubt, discover numerous imperfections ; but I flatter myself, you will allow, that as far as my humble abilities have enabled me, I have executed, with the strictest fidelity, what I have undertaken. If I have afforded either amusement or useful information, it it will be a high gratification to,

My dear Sir,

Yours, &c. &c.

APPENDIX.

THE subject of passports frequently occurring in all continental tours, I shall here throw into one note, all the particulars that happened to myself. I had my passport at the office of His Excellency the Ambassador of the King of the Netherlands, No. 14, Buckingham-street, Strand. It is required to have a letter of recommendation from some respectable person, but they are not particular from whom, for no questions are asked. The letter may be sent post paid, directed "To his Excellency the Ambassador, &c." as above; and after twenty-four hours, by calling personally, the passport is obtained, and no money is charged for it.

The passport was demanded on landing at Ostend; and three hours afterwards, I called, and got it back. An English traveller, by applying to the English Consul at Ostend, may get a passport from the Mayor, should he have omitted to get one in London. The passport was not demanded at the gate of Bruges; but at the hotel after supper, a book was sent round

the table, in which every guest had to insert his name, Christian name, usual place of abode, age, profession, from what town he had come, and whither he was going. At some towns, there are columns also, for the traveller to insert the object of his journey; how long he means to stop; and also, if he is recommended to any one in the town. Prudence will point out the propriety of the traveller stating the real truth, or at all events always stating the same at all towns, as any prevarication may bring him under suspicion, and in the possible, though not probable event of a charge being brought against him before the police, such conduct would weigh materially against him. At the gate of Ghent, I was required to shew my passport, and enter the usual particulars in a book. At the gate of Brussels, the passport was taken from me, and the officers enquired at what hotel I meant to lodge. When I called at the police-office for my passport, the clerk enquired at what hotel I lodged, and there being no charge of any description against me, he of course wrote on the back of it the day I had been seen there, stamped it, and also at my request, put down "*Bon pour Anvers.*" At Antwerp, I shewed the passport at the gate, and called at the police-office, and had it made good for Amsterdam. The guard on the frontier required to see it; and after that nothing was said about it, until I got to that city. The passport

was there sent to the police-office, and a receipt was returned for it ; I had to call twice, in order to have it made good to go to Nimeguen. I here paid seven-pence. I then went to the Prussian Consul, to have permission put on the back of it to enter the Prussian States. It was here stamped with the Prussian eagle, and I paid a guilder. The Prussian Consul asked me if I had arrived by the last packet. If I had inconsiderately said yes, the writing on the back of my passport would have convicted me of a lie. This shews how much the traveller's interest, as well as a regard to morality and honor, ought to dictate a decided answer in the strictest conformity with the truth. I had nothing farther to do with the police, except making the usual entries in the books at the hotels, until I got to Cologne, where I got permission put on the back of my passport to leave the Prussian territories. This I found was not necessary ; for no one asked for my passport from the time I entered the kingdom, to the time I left it. It was different in Belgium ; for I had to shew my passport at every town or village, until I got to Brussels. The clerk at the police there made it good for Paris ; and on my way to that city, I shewed it at Mons, Valenciennes, Cambray, St. Quintin, and Noyon. At Paris, it was sent to the Præfecture of the police, and it was a full day's work to get it made good for England. First, it was required to go to the

Præfecture of the police, and as there are always a hundred people or more there all the day, waiting for passports, there is considerable delay. The next place to go to is the residence of the British Ambassador, in another part of the town. It may not be his hour of business, which occasions delay; and after the hour is come, from the number of persons waiting, still farther delay is produced. It is then required to go to a great distance to the minister for foreign affairs, and pay ten francs, 8s. 4d. ~~for one Government~~ charges 2l. 7s. 6d. we have no right to complain. The passport must here be left, and called for next day. I had mine brought me, and paid a franc and a half extra. It is again required to go to the Præfecture of the police, and after various delays, and going to four different people in the office, the troublesome affair is at last got rid of. The passport was examined at the gate of Rouen, and at the gate of Dieppe. It was also required to go to the office at Dieppe, and get the signature of the Commissioner before the ship sailed. Officers came on board to examine if the passports were right. This was the whole I had to do with passports in my journey. On the Continent, natives travelling, require to have a passport. At present, in time of peace, it is not necessary for women. A person entering a town on foot will probably not be examined, as he will be supposed to be a resident in the town.

I have seen persons ~~get~~ out of the coach, and walk into the town to avoid inquiry.

Some information respecting the coins may be useful to travellers intending to go the same route.

In Belgium, France, and the Provinces on the left bank of the Rhine, now subject to the King of Prussia, accounts are kept in francs and centimes.

The gold coins usually current are the Napoleon of 20 francs, and the double Napoleon of 40 francs. A few lately coined have Louis' head upon them; but they are all indiscriminately called Napoleons. The old Louis d'or of 24 francs is very rare. The usual silver coins are the 5 franc piece, the 2 franc piece, 1 franc, and half franc. These have also Napoleon's head. There are a few old 6 franc pieces, and also coins of 30 French sous, and 15 sous, and all have the value stamped upon them.

The facility with which accounts are kept, in francs and centimes is very great, and often makes the traveller regret, that a similar decimal system is not introduced into England. To give an example. Suppose a traveller at Paris to call at the house of Perregaux, and draw a bill of 300l. on his banker in London, the exchange at Paris being 25 francs, 35 centimes the pound sterling, the account will stand thus :

c c

300 at 25.35	=	7605.00
Commission 1 per cent.		76.05
		<hr/>
		7528.95

He has to receive 7528 francs and 95 centimes. Suppose he wishes to purchase into the French Funds, at 57.50, a simple operation of division gives the result 13,094 francs, the sum for which he obtains a credit in the "*grand livre*."

The business of the traveller is chiefly with the hotels; and as a specimen, I shall give my bill at the *Lion d'Or*, at Antwerp.

*Monsieur No. 17.**

<i>Juillet 15</i>	<i>Thé</i>	1.20
	<i>Soupé</i>	1.75
	<i>Biérre</i>	40
	<i>Demi-bouteille de Vin</i>	1.25
<i>Juillet 16.</i>	<i>Dejeuné, Thé, deux œufs</i>	1.20
	<i>Diné</i>	2.00
	<i>Bouteille de Vin</i>	2.50
	<i>Bierre</i>	0.40
	<i>Thé</i>	1.20
	<i>Soupé</i>	1.75
	<i>Logement</i>	2.50
		<hr/>
		16.15

* No. 17, is the number of the bed-room I slept in.

That is 16 francs and 1½*d.*, or about 13*s.* 6*d.* To discharge the above and recompense the waiters, 18 francs or 15*s.*, would be quite sufficient.

Before I left London, I put myself to a great deal of unnecessary trouble to find out and purchase Napoleons, which I obtained at 16*s.* 8*d.* each, or about par. The best money a traveller can take with him is bank of England notes. At Ostend he may change some of them for Napoleons, to bear his expenses to Brussels, at which city, and at Antwerp, he may purchase Napoleons to more advantage. There are shops where they exchange Napoleons for English notes.

Before leaving Antwerp, it will be convenient, though not absolutely necessary, to purchase a few guilders, to spend on the road to Rotterdam. That city is the best place to change bank notes for Dutch silver currency. I got, at the rate of 11 guilders 17 stivers for a pound, which was 17 stivers more than par. If it be thought inconvenient to carry much silver on the journey, Napoleons pass every where at but a small loss. In Holland, accounts are kept in guilders and stivers. Twenty stivers make a guilder, which is worth nearly 22*d.*

The silver currency of Holland is so various, that the traveller need not expect to be able to distinguish the value of many coins he will meet

with. The most usual are the guilder, the Zealand rix-dollar of 52 stivers, the rix-dollar of 50 stivers, coined by King Louis Bonaparte, also, pieces which pass for 5 stivers and a-half, and pieces which pass for 6 stivers. When I changed a single or double Napoleon, I usually asked any gentleman present to tell me, if the money given me was correct. There is very great need for a reformation of the Dutch coinage, and measures are taking by the government for that purpose. The guilder is to be the standard; and decimal divisions are intended. If the value of the guilder were to be lowered a little, and made the same as two francs, it would produce an uniformity of coins throughout the whole kingdom of the Netherlands, also with France, and the countries lately subject to her power. Perhaps a spirit of nationality may prevent so obvious and convenient a measure.

Any guilders the traveller may have left, he will be able to pass at but a small loss, along the Rhine. French money is usually current there.

Before leaving Brussels to go to Paris, it will be desirable to have Napoleons enough to bear the expenses on the road, as the French landlords will pretend not to be accustomed to take English notes, and will not give full value. At Paris, bank notes may be converted into French money, to more advantage than at any other

place. I got 25 francs for a single pound note. For a larger sum 25 francs 35 centimes were given. A guinea would not have fetched so much, and no where would pass above value, perhaps, not even at par. A person not acquainted with trade may be at a loss to know how that could be. To explain the matter, let us suppose a person at Rotterdam, or Paris, to wish to remit a large sum to pay his British correspondent for goods. Allowing he were permitted to export Napoleons or bullion in payment, there is the trouble of package, the weight and expense of carriage, the risk of the parcel being lost, and the danger of robbing. If he purchase bank notes, and send them over, there is no dispute with the correspondent as to the value of the payment sent, and the carriage is but trifling; also, if he cut the notes in two, and send them by two separate parcels, if one should be lost, the value is recoverable by means of the other. As at present, the value of the goods sent to the Continent exceeds the value of those sent back, there is naturally a great demand for English notes, and they accordingly bear a premium.

Many persons, before leaving London, deposit their money in a banking house, and get letters of credit on the bankers on the Continent. By that method, they avoid the risk of being robbed,

